



The Official Journal of the Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.

APRIL 1997



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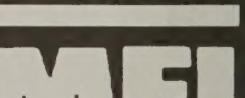
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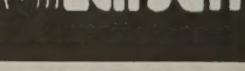
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AUTO-CALL Magazine Staff . . .

Editor

John Queen, KAØSEY, (301) 855-0198

Circulation Manager

John Swafford, W4HU, (703) 536-9537

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Regional Hamfests and Other Events

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------|
| April 5-6 | Maryland State Convention, Timonium, MD | 410-HAM-FEST |
| April 12 | Appalachian AR Group, Fredericksburg, PA | 717-754-7700 |
| April 12-13 | South Atlanta Ham and Comp. Festival, Atlanta, GA | 770-593-3962 |
| April 13 | Raleigh ARS, Raleigh, NC | 919-872-6555 |
| April 13 | Columbia-Montour ARC, Bloomsburg, PA | 717-752-6851 |
| April 20 | Delaware State Convention, New Castle, DE | 610-485-4844 |
| April 26 | Cherryville Repeater Assn., Belvidere, NJ | 908-788-4080 |
| April 27 | Mt. Beacon ARC, Poughkeepsie, NY | 914-485-9617 |
| May 3 | Blue Ridge ARS, Greenville, SC | 864-476-2609 |
| May 4 | Metro 70cm Network, Yonkers, NY | 914-969-1053 |
| May 4 | Warminster ARC, Wrightstown, PA | 215-675-9165 |
| May 9-10 | HOSSTRADERS, Rochester, NH | 207-469-3492 |
| May 10 | Statesboro ARS, Statesboro, GA | 912-653-4939 |
| May 16-18 | Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH | 937-276-6930 |
| May 25 | Memorial Day Hamfest, West Friendship, MD | |
| May 30-June 1 | Atlantic Division Convention, Rochester, NY | 716-424-7184 |
| May 31 | Nashville ARC, Nashville, TN | 615-889-7376 |
| June 1 | Ole Virginia Hams, Manassas, VA | 703-369-2877 |
| June 7 | Champlain Valley ARC, Plattsburgh, NY | 518-563-6851 |
| June 8 | Long Island Mobile ARC, Bethpage, NY | 516-796-2366 |
| June 8 | Goodyear ARC, Akron, OH | 330-733-5795 |
| June 14 | Skyline ARC, Cortland, NY | 607-753-0597 |
| June 15 | Frederick ARC, Frederick, MD | 301-865-0865 |
| June 21 | Raritan Valley RC, Dunellen, NJ | 908-722-9045 |
| June 21 | Hanover Area Hamming Assn., Pleasant Hill, PA | 410-239-8451 |
| June 21-22 | Georgia State Convention, Atlanta, GA | 770-493-8438 |
| June 28-29 | Field Day | |
| July 5 | North Carolina Alligators Group, Salisbury, NC | 704-279-3391 |
| July 6 | Murgas ARC, Wilkes-Barre, PA | 717-288-3532 |
| July 13 | Genesee Radio Amateurs, Alexander, NY | 716-343-4484 |
| July 13 | Mid-Atlantic ARC, Kimberton, PA | 610-293-1919 |
| July 26 | Western Carolina ARS, Waynesville, NC | 704-258-2639 |

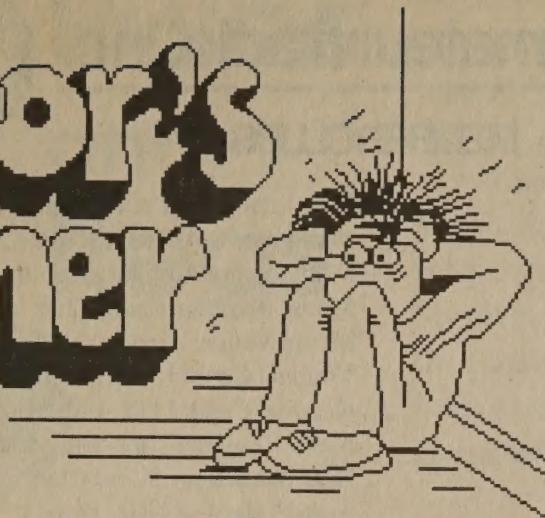


On The Cover

ARRL Roanoke Division Director, John Kanode, N4MM (left), and Vice Director, Dennis Bodson, W4PWF (right), present Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club President, Bill Lorentz, KS4II (center) with his club's 25 year affiliation certificate. The Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club operates the two letter prefix, fourth call area ARRL QSL Bureau and sponsors the Virginia QSO Party.

Editor's Corner

By John Queen
KAØSEY



Just before this issue of *AutoCall* went to press, I was informed by several confidential sources deep within the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that some major changes have occurred within the agency.

The FCC, while struggling with severe budget cuts during the current fiscal year, can no longer financially support those divisions of the agency which regulate amateur radio services. The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) was recently made aware of the FCC's financial situation and has agreed to help.

In what must be termed as one of the most unusual arrangements ever in the history of the federal government, the FCC has agreed to relinquish all regulatory responsibility for the amateur services to the ARRL. The ARRL, in turn, has agreed to create a new non-profit organization aptly named the Amateur Federal Radio Communication Relay Commission League, or AFRCRCL for short.

AFRCRCL (pronounced *afer-crickle*), officially became incorporated as a new non-profit organization during the latter part of March 1997.

A senior executive within the AFRCRCL who requested to remain anonymous said, "we have already taken over all licensing responsibilities from the FCC and have received their callsign databases and historical records." He also stated that "many changes are in the works."

The executive wouldn't provide specifics, but we have learned from reliable sources that a document has been circulating within the AFRCRCL which outlines a number of proposed regulatory changes. Included in the document are the following proposals:

- Abolish all current federal, state, and local laws, restrictions and covenants that pertain to amateur radio antennas. Under the proposal, all amateurs would have unlimited rights to build any antenna of any height at any location.
- Immediately open all remaining gates to the vanity call sign system and issue licenses for all pending applications within the next 30 days.
- Immediately dismiss any and all proposals presented by the Little LEO industry.
- Change the primary exclusive amateur radio operating spectrum from the current allocation to include all frequencies between 1 kHz and 150 GHz, inclusive.
- Make it illegal to own or operate a CB radio (except by ham radio operators, who would be allowed to use them as paperweights).

The proposals contained in the document are slated to be voted on by the executive staff of the AFRCRCL at high noon on April 1st.

73's, de KAØSEY, John

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.



Washington, DC

MEMBER CLUBS

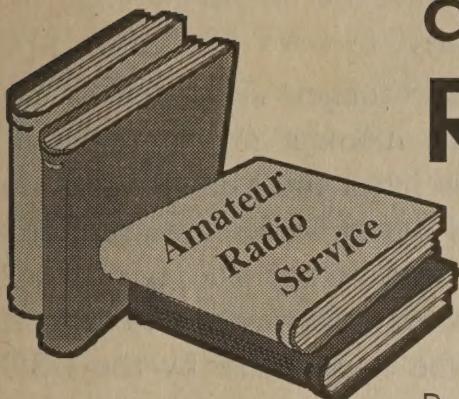
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Columbia Amateur Radio Association
Culpeper Amateur Radio Association
D-MARC - Digital Mid-Atlantic Radio Council
Department of State Amateur Radio Club
Dulles Amateur Radio Group
Explorer Post #80- Amateur Radio
Fauquier Amateur Radio Association
Frederick Amateur Radio Club
Frederick Amateur Repeater Group
Goddard Amateur Radio Club
Green Mountain Repeater Association
Hanover Area Hamming Association
Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club
IBM Amateur Radio Club
Johns Hopkins University APL ARC
Kent Island Amateur Radio Club
Laurel Amateur Radio Club
Leisure World Amateur Radio Club
Loudoun Amateur Radio Group
MD/DC MARS (Navy Marine) Association
MADRAS
Maryland Emergency Phone Net
Maryland FM Association
Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club
Mercury Amateur Radio Assn., NE Area
Metropolitan Communications Network
Metrovision Amateur TV Club

Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn.
Montgomery Amateur Radio Club
Montgomery Auxiliary Communications Service
Moose Amateur Radio Club
Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
National Capitol AR&S Council
National Capitol DX Association
Naval Research Laboratory Radio Club
NOAA Amateur Radio Club
North Point FM Association
Northern Virginia FM Association
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Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club
Southern Patuxent Amateur Radio Club
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Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club
Summit Amateur Radio Association
Tri-County Amateur Radio Club
T-MARC, Middle Atlantic Repeater Council
Vienna Wireless Society
Voice of America Amateur Radio Club
Waldorf Repeater Support Group
Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Assn.
Washington Area Young Ladies ARC
Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. meets at 8: p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. **Visitors are always welcome!** The next meeting will be held on April 9th in Takoma Park, Maryland at Columbia Union College, HMS Richards Bldg., Flower Avenue (Take beltway exit 30, South on Colesville Road to Franklin Avenue, left on Franklin to Flower, right on Flower to Carroll Ave., left on Carroll to Greenwood Ave., left on Greenwood to 2nd building on left. :

Talk-in on
146.55



Rules and Regs

By Jack Kelleher
W4ZC

Little LEOs, "Scene 4, Take 2"

By the time you read this, it may be passé, at least in terms of the outcome of the March 5 meeting of the WRC-97 Industry Advisory Committee, so we'll just quote one paragraph from ARRL Bulletin No. 8 (1997) dated February 14.

Commercial satellite interests seeking access to bands below 1 GHz—including amateur allocations at 146 and 430 MHz—now have added 220 MHz to their "wish list." For the first time, Little LEO (low-earth-orbiting satellite) interests have proposed including 219-225 MHz in their list of desired allocations for the non-voice, non-geostationary (NVNG) mobile-satellite service (MSS).

The move was contained in the industry's so-called "flexible allocation proposal," delivered at the February 13, 1997, meeting of FCC Informal Working Group (IWG) 2A. Little LEO targets now include 146 to 148, 219 to 225 and 430 to 450 MHz.

The ARRL and AMSAT were among those objecting to the concept, and the League is urging those who agree with their position to comment to the FCC by March 4. IWG-2A has been preparing draft proposals for the 1997 World Radio-communication Conference (WRC-97). These will be reviewed during a March 5 meeting of the FCC's

WRC-97 Industry Advisory Committee that is preparing draft proposals for consideration by the United States as it gets ready for WRC-97.

There are two very undesirable aspects of this particular activity. One is the possibility that frequency bands now allocated to the Amateur Service on a primary basis would become victims of a *tour de force* expropriation by commercial interests. To my knowledge this has never happened before.

The other has to do with the already small percentage of frequency space allocated to the Amateur Service on a Primary basis; and still less on a Primary Exclusive basis. The Amateur Service can ill-afford to lose any portion of the few bands allocated to us on a Primary basis, especially on the basis of a power play rather than on the basis of a considered, bilateral study of the factors involved.

There are three categories of allocations to the Amateur Service;

PRIMARY EXCLUSIVE, meaning that no other service is authorized on the band even on a secondary non-interference basis. These bands are: 14.0-14.35 MHz; 18.068-18.168 MHz; 21.0-21.45 MHz; 24.89-24.99 MHz; 28.0-29.7 MHz; 50-54 MHz (except not available to the Amateur Service in ITU Region 1); 144-146 MHz (146-148 Primary Exclusive in ITU Region 2, shared in Region 3, not available to the Amateur Service in Region 1); 47.0-47.2 GHz; 75.5-76.0 GHz; and 142-144 GHz.

PRIMARY SHARED. Several other services sharing the 1800-2000 kHz & 3500-4000 kHz in all three ITU Regions; 7100-7300 kHz is shared with the Broadcasting Service in ITU Regions 1 (Europe & Africa) & 3 (Asia); 220-225 MHz is allocated to the Amateur Service only in Region 2 and is shared there with the Fixed and Mobile Services; 2390-2400 and 2402-2417 MHz are now Primary in the United States but secondary NIB in

Continued next page

the rest of the world.

SECONDARY nib (Nib means no harmful interference to the Primary Services to which the band is allocated). Ten of our bands are in this category — 10.1-10.15 MHz; 420-450 MHz; 902-928 MHz; 1240-1300 MHz; 2300-2310 MHz; 2400-2402 MHz; 2417-2450 MHz; 3.3-3.5 GHz; 5.65-5.95 GHz and 10.1-10.5 GHz.

One reason why some of our Primary Exclusive bands are targets for pre-emption may be because our occupancy has kept exploitation at bay.

The bottom line is, when you look at these eye-catching “band plan” charts handed out at trade shows and hamfests, keep in mind how few of the bands are allocated exclusively for the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services.

CANADIAN FLAP ERUPTS OVER LITTLE LEO INVITATION

Another disturbing aspect of the attempted raid on VHF/UHF Amateur Service bands is the following, which appears in the ARRL Letter, Volume 16, Number 9, February 28th).

Radio Amateurs of Canada is warning hams north of the border not to be taken in by what it believes might be a “divide and conquer strategy” by the Little LEO industry. On February 22, RAC issued an advisory to all clubs stating that “representatives of large telecom corporations” were approaching Amateur Radio clubs to explain how it would be feasible for the Little LEO and hams to share spectrum in the 146, 220 and 440 MHz bands. The low-earth-orbiting (LEO) satellites would provide data services.

But the Canadian ham club that’s at the focus of the flap says RAC has it all wrong. The Kitchener-Waterloo (Ontario) Amateur Radio Club (KWARC) said it extended the invitation to a representative of ORBCOMM Canada to speak at its April 7 meeting on how its current LEO satellites already share public safety and commercial

frequencies. Via its Web page (<http://www.kwarc.on.ca/>), the club defended its invitation to ORBCOMM Canada as an open-minded effort to get all the facts.

“I am one of the strongest supporters of the RAC, however at this moment in time I am very disappointed at this latest misguided attack on KWARC,” said Paul Cassel, VE3SY, in an editor’s note. “I continue to oppose any sharing of our 2 meter or 70 cm spectrum. However, I do support an open dialogue be undertaken by the LEO Industry and the Amateur community to discuss joint experimental sharing at 220 MHz. I feel this band best suits the interests of the Amateur Community to experiment with spread spectrum sharing and should meet the needs of the LEO applicants.”

In its advisory—signed by RAC President Farrell Hopwood, VE7RD—RAC suggests that a club’s “hospitality and broadminded reception” of industry speakers could be turned against hams. RAC says that after briefing clubs like KWARC, the Little LEO industry could approach government claiming it consulted with hams across the country who “greeted them warmly and did not disagree with their ideas.”

Citing mutual interference and the future erosion of ham radio’s presence in the face of commercial encroachment, RAC said it is “absolutely opposed” to any loss of spectrum and to sharing with the Little LEO satellites. “The eventual loss of our VHF and UHF bands would seriously jeopardize the future of Amateur Radio,” RAC declared.

RAC said it would do everything it can to “dissuade government and industry from forcing us to share our bands for what we believe is an ill-conceived program, fraught with problems for amateurs and the public.” RAC has posted its position on its Web page at <http://www.rac.ca>.

Continued next page

LATEST NEWS ON STATUS OF CW BELOW 30 MHZ

As most of you are aware, a proposal arose at ITU WRC-95 (World Radiocommunication Conference 1995) to delete from ITU Radio Regulations Article S25 the requirement for demonstrated Morse proficiency to operate an amateur radio station in the HF band.

Early in 1996 the American Radio Relay League and the International Amateur Radio Union established fact-finding Committees to assist them to determine U.S. and world-wide positions in the amateur community on S25.

The first of three regional IARU meetings took place in Tel Aviv last October. We were surprised to learn that at that meeting, IARU members in ITU Region 1 IARU approved a proposal to maintain the status quo on S25.5, the Morse proficiency requirement.

The ARRL fact-finding Committee reported to the ARRL Board meeting in January 1997. It recommended and the Board approved a status quo position on S25.5.

So, within the amateur community what started out to be an assault on CW may be turning into a chorus to maintain it. Only time will tell. WRC-99 is almost 3 years away, and the final decision will be determined by a majority vote of the member administrations of the ITU.

RESTRUCTURING OF U.S. AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING

Another part of the ARRL Planning Committee's Report responds to its charge, to review and comment on our licensing structure. Broadly, their recommendations cover these points:

- Elimination of the Novice license.
- Creation of a new Intermediate license to replace the Technician Plus.
- Greater HF privileges for intermediate

licensees than for the existing technician plus, including phone on 160, 75 and 15 meters.

- A 10-wpm General CW test (with more stringent testing standards for all CW exams).
- Expanded phone privileges for General-class and higher licensees.

Details of the plan, discussed during the recent ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, appear in March QST. ARRL members are being invited to add their ideas, comments and recommendations to those of the ARRL WRC-99 Planning Committee, with a deadline of 31 May 1997.

The Board says it seeks comments from members to ensure that before any plan goes forward, it enjoys broad support from the amateur community. The Board will not act on the issue at least until its July meeting.

By the time you read this the March issue of QST will be out, with much more detail on the proposals (which were contained in ARRL Bulletin No. 5 for 1997, dated 31 January 1997).

We urge all Chapter members to comment constructively on these proposals. Factors include the proposed subband allocations as well as the proposed licensing requirements per se, and the desirability of simplifying the license structure and the number of examination elements.

CANADIAN EFFORT TO DELEGATE HAM RADIO ADMINISTRATION STALLS (From the ARRL Letter, v16, #9)

An effort to delegate the administration of the Amateur Radio service in Canada to a nongovernmental service company has stalled at the eleventh hour. The arm's-length organization affiliated with Radio Amateurs of Canada and known in English and French as Amateur Radio Administrative Services/Services Administratifs Radio Amateurs (ARAS-SARA) has been incorporated as a not-for-profit company under

Continued next page

Canadian law and has financial help from Industry Canada, that country's FCC. Its stated purpose is "to provide spectrum management administrative services to all individuals who wish to operate an Amateur Radio Station in Canada."

The project calls for ARAS-SARA to assume some ham radio administrative responsibilities for that country's 47,000 radio amateurs—going beyond what the highly successful volunteer examination program does with ham radio examinations here in the US.

One of the reasons behind RAC's recent move to Ottawa, ARAS-SARA was considered to have been on the verge of approval and was expected to be implemented on a limited basis later this year.

"February 18th was truly Black Tuesday," said an RAC bulletin reporting that senior Industry Canada officials "abruptly shelved the program for the delegation of the administration of the Amateur Radio Service on the eve of final approval of the project." The major stumbling block seems to have been the lack of a decision on money.

Industry Canada's Jan Skora—director general of the Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch—advised RAC President Farrell Hopwood, VE7RD, that his department had

decided not to commit to long-term funding of ARAS-SARA at present, because it was too risky.

As RAC interprets the issue, lacking approval of a mechanism permitting the ARAS-SARA to keep a portion of the license fees it would collect, Industry Canada was skittish about going forward with the program. A decision on that issue is expected later this year. The approval would be needed so ARAS-SARA eventually could be completely self-supporting.

"Contrary to its previous position, Industry Canada apparently has decided that until it has that decision, it is now unwilling to provide support in next fiscal year for the first phase of the project, which is the startup and test of the new service concept," the RAC lamented.

RAC says it plans to pull back financially from the project but will continue to monitor the situation. "The ball was clearly in Industry Canada's court to finalize the funding and secure Government approval," said RAC Vice President, Government Affairs and working group cochairman Jim Dean, VE3IQ. "This eleventh hour decision very significantly jeopardizes the project."

A full report will be included in an upcoming issue of *The Canadian Amateur*.

SPECIAL EVENT

The southwest Ohio Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association will hold its 1997 Annual Banquet in conjunction with the Dayton Hamvention on Friday, May 16 at Alex's Continental Restaurant. C.O.D. bar at 7:00, banquet at 7:30. Charles Stinger, W8GFA, former manager of Voice of America Radio Station at Bethany Ohio will give us an inside look at this powerful transmitting station. Reservation deadline May 14. QCWA membership is not a requirement for attendance. For tickets (\$15.00 each) make check payable to:

**Robert L. Dingle
Treasurer, Chapter 9
1117 Big Hill Rd.
Kettering, OH 45429-1201**



American Radio Relay League Report

By John Swafford,
W4HU

The purpose of the ARRL Letter is to provide the essential news of interest to active, organizationally minded radio amateurs faster than it can be disseminated by our official Journal, QST. We strive to be fast, accurate and readable in our reporting. Material from The ARRL Letter may be reproduced in whole or in part, in any form, including photo reproduction and electronic data banks, provided that credit is given to The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League.

ARRL MEMBERS ASKED TO COMMENT ON LICENSE RESTRUCTURING IDEAS

ARRL members are being invited to add their ideas, comments and recommendations to those of the ARRL WRC-99 Planning Committee, which has suggested sweeping—and potentially controversial—changes to the Amateur Radio licensing structure in the US. On the table for open discussion and debate are proposals that include:

- * Elimination of the Novice license.
- * Creation of a new Intermediate license to replace the Technician plus.
- * Expanded HF privileges for Intermediate licensees, including phone on 160 75 and 15 meters.
- * A 10-wpm General CW test (with more stringent testing standards for all CW exams).
- * Expanded phone privileges for General-class and higher licensees.

Details of the plan, discussed during the recent

ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, will appear in March QST. The Board say it seeks comments from members to ensure that before any plan goes forward, it enjoys broad support from the amateur community. The Board will not act on the issue at least until its July meeting.

After its research revealed that as many as three Novices in four are inactive, the committee concluded that the Novice license is no longer useful. Although the committee would end the Novice license, its plan provides current Novices with an easy means to upgrade via an open-book test) to the new Intermediate class license, which would replace the current Technician Plus. All present Tech Plus licensees would become Intermediate licensees.

The Basic license would supplant the Technician license—now the hobby's most-popular entry-level ticket—with no changes in privileges. In addition, the committee's plan would phase out the current Novice and Tech Plus bands on 80, 40 and 15 meters, and replace them with new Intermediate—class licensees calls for new CW bands on 80, 40 and 15 meters starting 25 kHz up from the lower band edge, digital and phone-band privileges on 75 and 15 meters and a 50-kHz phone or CW segment at the top end of 160 meters, plus expanded Novice and Tech Plus CW and phone allocations on 10 meters.

According to the proposal, Intermediate CW bands would be 3525 to 3700 kHz, 7025 to 7050 kHz, 21025 to 21150 kHz and 28050 to 28300 kHz. Digital operation was suggested for 3600 to 3625, 21100 to 21125 and 28100 to 28189 kHz. Phone privileges would include 1950 to 2000, 3900 to 4000, 21350 to 21450, SSB from 28300 to 28500 and FM from 29500 to 29700 kHz. Transmitter power for Intermediate—class licensees would be limited to 200 W PEP output (other licensees using these bands would not be limited to 200W, however).

Continued next page

General-class and higher amateurs also would benefit from the plan, if it's adopted according to the committee's outlines. General-class hams would get additional phone privileges 3800 to 3850, 7200 to 7225, and 21250 to 21300 kHz. Advanced-class hams would add 3725 to 3775, 7125 to 7150 and 21175 to 21225 kHz; Extra-class hams would also have 3700 to 3750, 7125 to 7150 and 21150 to 21200 kHz.

With the exception of 40 meters, where Novice and Tech Plus licensees already have privileges, the committee suggested no changes on the hobby's narrowest and most crowded bands—including 20 meters and the narrow WARC bands at 30, 17 and 12 meters.

The Intermediate CW test would be 5 words per minute (the same as the current Tech Plus requirement), but the committee proposed that the General class CW requirement be set at 10 wpm. There still would be no additional CW exam for the Advanced ticket, nor would there be any change in the 20-wpm requirement for the Extra. Exams for all classes would include a return to sending test and the requirement for one minute of solid copy during a five-minute test—instead of the current method that tests on the content of the CW text.

Right now, these major changes are only in the talking stage. "Let us be very clear about this," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, who characterized the committee's proposals as a starting point for discussion, not a done deal. "The changes are not ARRL policy; nothing has been proposed to, or by, the FCC, and the ARRL Board is committed to making no decision before its July 1997 meeting." Sumner said there is no timetable to complete the process.

Only after there is an opportunity for in-depth consideration and discussion by the membership will the ARRL Board consider taking the next step—to approach the FCC with a rulemaking proposal—a process that automatically invites additional comments and suggestions.

Between the time they receive March QST and May, members are asked to voice their opinions on the committee's suggestions to their directors, whose postal and e-mail addresses are listed on page 10 of QST. All suggestions and comments—positive and negative—are welcome.

HAM RADIO GROWS IN 1996

Good news: The number of licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US rose by approximately 1.9% last year! FCC statistics show that ham ranks increased by 12,207 from December 1995 to December 1996. During 1996, 28,854 new licenses were issued by the FCC, while another 13,926 hams upgraded their operating privileges.

Not-so-good news: During January 1997, the total number of hams dropped by 641 (possibly due to the cancellation or expiration of the licenses of deceased hams). The number of new and upgrading hams also was off slightly last month compared to the month previous.

Bad news: The number of applications forwarded to the FCC by the ARRL-VEC for new and upgraded licenses during 1996 was down by 5198 over the previous year. That represents a 16% drop—consistent with what other VECs are reporting.

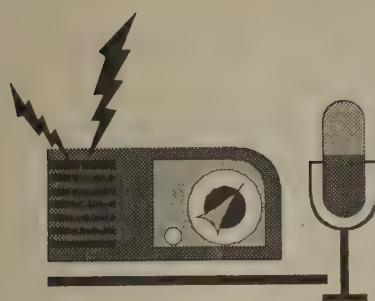
NEW WATS NUMBER FOR HAM INFO FROM FCC

The FCC has designated a new, toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries—including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The new number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau.

IN BRIEF:

* FCC drops DOB info: Effective February 21, 1997, the FCC no longer will distribute date-

Continued on page 14



DX DX DX

By John Kanode,
N4MM

UPCOMING DX CONTESTS

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| EA RTTY Contest | April 5-6 |
| Holyland DX Contest | April 5-6 |
| SP DX Contest | April 5-6 |
| His Majesty King of Spain | April 12-13 |
| EU Sprint | April 19 |
| Helvetia Contest | April 26-27 |

TIDBITS

MACQUAIRE ISLAND HAS THREE NEW AMATEURS FOR 1997

It has been reported that there will be three Amateur Radio operators on the island in 1997. Tom, VKØTS is the Communications Technical Officer, Eric, VKØKBB is in the Engineering Section and Graham, VKØWG is attached to the meteorology unit at the base. All three of them have been employed by the ANARE since July 1996 and in the past few months were undergoing intensive training in Hobart. They arrived on the island in early December of 1996.

There is not much time for amateur operation as the changeover and resupply of bases means long working hours and little spare time. For many years, amateur operation from this island has been sparse. It is high on the Most Wanted List and when amateur operations do take place from there, it is for brief periods of time with operators who have little DX experience. Also radio propagation to that part of the world is almost nonexistent.

The report goes on to say that Tom plans to be active on HF, both CW and SSB. He will concentrate on 80 and 40 meters. When winter comes on in April, the population there decreases and no ships visit until October 1997. This is the period that amateur operation should occur on a more regular basis. So far, I have seen no DX spots on the DX packetcluster for any of these stations. Hopefully when April rolls around, activity from Macquarie Island will be heard on the amateur bands. No QSL routes have been announced but when activity starts, I am sure they will be published.

The Frankford Radio Club is offering a special certificate for contacting members during their 70th anniversary celebration in 1997. US and North American stations must contact 70 FRC members and DX stations must contact 35 FRC members in 1997. All FRC DXpeditions count as well. Send log info to K2FL at his callbook address. A list of FRC members and more info can be found on their web site: <http://www.frc-contest.org/70th.html>.

The DXpedition to St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks is over. They made about 10,000 QSOs. They did not work any 80 or 160 meters. Most of the DXers needed them on these two bands. With no propagation on 10 and 12 meters, the only bands one could work them on were 15, 17, 20, 30 and 40 meters. From what I have seen and heard, it is very difficult to get large antennas up on the rocks. QSL's for CW go to PT7AA and SSB/RTTY to PS7KM.

It has been reported that Sweden is lowering its CW requirement from 12 WPM to 5 WPM. It used to be 16 WPM until just a few years ago.

HR6/N7QXQ has a new QSL manager. W7TSQ has taken over as his QSL manager as of February 7, 1997. His other QSL manager, NA7X is a silent key.

According to Bob Preston, BV/NØIAT, the application to visit Pratas Island was rejected. This island is a military base and with mainland China conducting naval exercises in that area, things are on a high alert and not a good time for civilians to

Continued on next page

of-birth information as part of its Amateur Radio license data. The field has been physically removed from the data stream. At least some call sign lookup systems could be affected by this change.

* RS-16 launch postpones: The launch of the anticipated RS-16 satellite has apparently been delayed. The Start-1 rocket will instead be used to launch commercial remote sensing payload belonging to the US. RS-16 may be launched at the end of February. The launch had been expected as early as December and has already been delayed once. The new satellite is expected to be a Mode A (2 meters up/10 meters down) bird, like RS-10 and RS-15. —SpaceNews

* Cosmonaut active on ham bands: CE3LWV, PY2FXE, and VE7VDX all report that Russian Cosmonaut Valery Korzun has been very active as ROMIR from the Mir space station, using an uplink of 145.200 MHz and downlink of 145.800 MHz. All stations reported good signals from Mir. He reported that US Astronaut Jerry Linenger, KC5HBR, has not been on the air very much because he has been very busy with experiments on Mir. —SpaceNews.

* Congratulations! ARRL Roanoke Division Vice Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF recently received the George S. Wham Leadership Medal from the American National Standards Institute

(ANSI). The award is given for "long-term leadership and visionary qualities in support of the ANSI Federation." —IEEE Standards Bearer

* FCC makes call signs available again: The FCC is making available six amateur station call signs to vanity applicants who file applications on or after March 27, 1997. The call signs are: W0AW, W3RO, W4CC, W4ART, W7MT and K7JW. These call signs will be available because they were surrendered by or taken back from licensees who were not eligible to hold them. For more information call the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Consumer Assistance Branch, 800-322-1117. —FCC

* Vanity refunds: Vanity refunds from unsuccessful first-day Gate 2 filers (processed on November 4, 1996) have begun to arrive in mailboxes. Refund checks are being mailed from the US Treasury in San Francisco. Those whose vanity applications have been dismissed by the FCC because their call sign choices had already been assigned must apply in writing for a refund of the \$30 application fee.

* Ham named to board: President Clinton has named Alberto A. Sagues, KA4MTO of Lutz, Florida, as a member of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. Sagues, 50, is a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of South Florida.

be conducting Amateur Radio operations from there. With the recent death of Deng Xiaoping, the situation there is more uncertain. Hopefully the situation will cool off and amateur operations will be allowed from there in the near future.

The 8P9Z cottage location is available for someone to operate from there for the CQ WW WPX DX CW Contest in May. If interested, contact Steve, KFFJ at k4fj@aol.com.

N7EB, Ed Blaszczyk became a silent key on January 19, 1997 at age 79. For many years, he was the QSL manager for the late Father Moran, 9N1MM.

The 1996 DXCC Yearbook has gone to the printers. Hopefully by the time you read this, it will be available. If you had any DXCC endorsements in the last period, or are on the honor roll, you will automatically receive a copy.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL FOREIGN SERVICE AMATEUR RADIO BANQUET

**co-sponsored by Department of State Amateur Radio Club (DOSARC)-W3DOS
Voice of America Amateur Radio Club - K3VOA**

**Saturday, 10 May 1997 -Fleet Reserve Club of Annapolis
100 Compromise Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401**

Cash bar opens at 1130 -Lunch served at 1230 - Smoking not permitted in dining room. Broiled crabcakes; chef's choice of vegetable, potato, dessert.

Tickets, at \$20.00 each, include lunch, tax, and gratuity. Advance reservations required - Tickets will be held at door. Mail check soonest, made payable to DOSARC, to Jane B. Dorset, KG3R, 1017 North Daniel Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201-2837

Directions, taking Route 50 from Washington east to Annapolis: Do NOT take Aris T. Allen Boulevard exit or Route 450 exit. Take following exit, which is Rowe Boulevard. Take Rowe Boulevard into Church Circle in Annapolis. Go half way around Church Circle, then right onto Duke of Gloucester Street, to the right of the Maryland Inn. Take about third left off Duke of Gloucester Street onto Newman Street. At bottom, Fleet Reserve Club is opposite, on Compromise St. Metered parking is available downtown but strictly enforced. Town parking lot, at left on Compromise Street, costs \$5.00.

Information on the Banquet may be obtained from John Swafford, W4HU, (703) 536-9537, w4hu@juno.com, Jane or Tom Dorset, KG3R/WB4J, (703) 525-1488, tdorset@erols.com Brad Rohrer, K1CTK/3, (410) 268-3662, 103203.2246 @compuserve.com. Or on the W3DOS Repeater: 145.19 MHz (repeater output). Or in the Foreign Service Net, which meets Sundays on 14.316 MHz from 1500 to 1530 UTC; 21.416 MHz from 1530 to 1600 UTC; 28.416 MHz beginning at 1600 UTC.

-----tear off here and mail with check-----

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL FOREIGN SERVICE AMATEUR BANQUET

Saturday, 10 May 1997 - Fleet Reserve Club of Annapolis

Name _____ Call _____

Name _____ Call _____

Daytime TEL (____) _____ Evening TEL (____) _____ Mail check to:

Jane B. Dorset, KG3R

1017 North Daniel Street

Arlington, Virginia 22201-2837

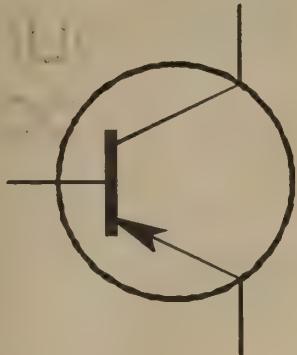
(\$20.00 per person,
payable to DOSARC):



National Capital ARES Council Public Service Calendar - 1997

| | | |
|-------|--------------|--|
| S/S | Apr 5 | Maryland/DC Section Convention |
| Sat | Apr 12 | Cherry Blossom Parade - DC - N3RPQ |
| Sat | Apr 12 | Multiple Sclerosis Walkathon - K3XO-KC4RON |
| Tue | Apr 15 | SKYWARN Basic II - NWS Sterling |
| Sat | Apr 19 | Bull Run Run - KC4RON |
| Sun | Apr 20 | George Washington Parkway 15K - WB4EEA |
| Sat | Apr 26 | NCAC Meeting |
| Sun | Apr 27 | March of Dimes Walkathon - Leesburg - KD4DGQ |
| Sat | May 3 | SKYWARN Advisory Committee Meeting |
| Sat | May 3 | Damage Survey Course - NWS Sterling |
| Sat | May 10 | Dulles Airport EMS Drill - KC4RON |
| F/S/S | May 16/17/18 | Dayton Hamvention |
| S/S | May 17/18 | Multiple Sclerosis 150K Bike Tour - N4ZGI |
| Sun | May 18 | Crystal City 10K - Arlington - KD4FRK |
| Sat | May 24 | ARES Institute - N3RPQ (Tentative) |
| Mon | May 26 | Great Meadows - WY2V |
| F/S/S | May 30/31/1 | Atlantic Division Convention |
| Sat | May 31 | ALA Clean Air Bike Trek - KC4RON |
| Sun | Jun 1 | American Heart Assn 10K - DC - N3RPQ |
| Fri | Jun 6 | SKYWARN Basic II - NWS Sterling |
| Sat | Jun 7 | SKYWARN Hurricane Course - NWS Sterling |
| S/S | Jun 14/15 | Alexandria Waterfront Festival |
| S/S | Jun 28/29 | Field Day |
| Fri | Jul 4 | 4th Of July - Mt. Vernon - WB4EEA |
| Sat | Aug 23 | NCAC SET - N4ZGI |
| S/S | Sep 6/7 | MADDash Bike Trek - N4ZGI |
| Sun | Sep 14 | DC MS Half Marathon - N3RPQ |
| F/S/S | Sep 19/20/21 | Claude Moore Farm Park - KC4RON |
| S/S | Sep 20/21 | Virginia Section Convention |
| S/S | Oct 11/12 | ARRL SET |
| Sun | Oct 12 | Clifton Days - KC4RON |
| Sat | Oct 18 | Loudoun Hospital Move (ARES Support) |
| Sun | Oct 26 | Marine Corps Marathon - N4ZGI |
| | Nov | Toys for Tots (To be announced) KC4RON |
| Wed | Dec 31 | Alexandria First Night |

FOR DETAILS ON THESE EVENTS, CHECK INTO THE NCAC NET EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT AT 9:00 PM LOCAL TIME ON NVFMA'S 146.910 REPEATER.



Amateur Radio Training

John Forrest WZ4A
6111 Burnett St., Alexandria, VA 22310
(703)971-3905

Please send announcements for training classes and club training contacts to WZ4A at the above address. Deadline is the 25th of the 2nd month prior to the *Auto Call* publication date (e.g., 25 December for the February issue).

Club Training Contacts

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Alexandria RC | Rich Adamy KA4GFY | (703) 644-3920 |
| Anne Arundel RC | Tony Young WA3YLO | (301) 262-1917 |
| Arlington ARC | Mike Callaham NW3V | (703) 241-5618 |
| Antietam Radio Assn. | Robert Long KD3JK | (301) 824-5132 |
| BRATS (Baltimore) | Joe Chidester W3SHZ | (410) 602-0353 |
| Baltimore ARC | Essex Community College | (410) 780-6854 |
| Dulles ARG | Michael Weber WB8RDN | (703) 450-2304 |
| Fauquier ARC | Neil Spokes AB4YK | (540) 364-3861 |
| Frederick ARC | Hal Silverman W3HWC | (301) 831-7946 |
| Laurel ARC | Pud Reaver W3YD | (301) 498-6293 |
| Mid-Atlantic DX Assn. | Michael Vaia, WB8VBW | (301) 738-3861 |
| Madras | Larry Ziecheck | (301) 984-6113 |
| MD Mobileers ARC | Bruce Colburn AA3KR | (410) 437-1891 |
| Montgomery ARC | Rocky Jones KC4UXO | (301) 216-5210 |
| Mt. Vernon ARC | John Forrest WZ4A | (703) 971-3905 |
| NASA/Goddard ARC | Vikki Gigante KA3PVS | (301) 249-2609 |
| Ole VA Hams ARC | Charles Dale WA4YGI | (703) 361-3091 |
| Pentagon ARC | David Boyd K9MX | (540) 659-6241 |
| St. Marys Co. ARC | Peter Butt WA3UMY | (301) 862-2214 |
| Shenandoah Val ARC | Guy Black W4PSJ | (540) 722-4952 |
| Southern MD ARC | Vic Curtis WA3YUV | (301) 888-1388 |
| Southern Pax ARC | Dwayne Kincaid WD8OYG | (410) 586-2177 |
| Stafford Adult Ed | Jerry Mullinix AC4HK | (540) 659-3905 |
| Sterling Park ARC | Forrest Snyder N4UTY | (703) 430-4149 |
| Tri-County ARC | John Creel WB3GXW | (301) 572-5124 |
| Vienna Wireless | Paul Wilkins AB4CY | (703) 560-2779 |
| Woodbridge Wireless | Jim Duffey WD4AIR | (703) 491-3170 |



Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

JOHN FORREST WZ4A
6111 Burnett St.
Alexandria, VA, 22310
(703) 971-3905

* Effective July 1, 1997, the Novice and Technician written exam question pools (Elements 2 and 3a) will change. Five questions on RF safety will be added to each exam. All books and study materials not based on these new question pools will be obsolete after that date. Be sure to use study materials appropriate for the current question pool.

* Effective January 1, 1997, the maximum FCC authorized exam fee is \$6.26.

* Copies of the complete (as of date) 1997 VEC Exam schedule from the *Auto Call* database are available. To obtain a copy, please send a large, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage to cover 10 letter-size pages along with \$2.00 to cover copying costs to WZ4A at the above address.

1997 Schedule of Examinations

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| April 5 (Saturday) | Culpeper, VA - (Unknown VE Organization)(ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred Contact: Bill Brown AC4KP (540)547-3089 |
| April 6 (Sunday) | Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day) (301)773-2898 (Evening) Timonium, MD (Hamfest) - Hanover Area Hamming Ass'n (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-In Accepted. Contact: Bill Dobson N3WD (410)HAM-FEST or (800)426-3378 |
| April 12 (Saturday) | Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510 Cumberland, MD - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576 Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674 |

**April
12
(Saturday)**

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC)
Walk-In
Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083.

**April
17
(Thursday)**

Towson, MD - Baltimore ARC (ARRL VEC)
Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Accepted
Contact: Ed Kriston N3WJA (410)HAM-TALK, Mailbox 3952

**April
19
(Saturday)**

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

Frederick, MD. - Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Association (ARRL VEC)
Pre- Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In. Contact the club voice BBS:
301-473-4151 box 110 or E-Mail "veteam@aol.com"

**April
29
(Tuesday)**

Annapolis, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Space Available
Contact: Lois Turner KA3VVQ (410)647-4178

**May
1
(Thursday)**

Warrenton, VA - Fauquier ARA (ARRL VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Neil Spokes AB4YK (540)364-3861

**May
4
(Sunday)**

Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day)
(301)773-2898 (Evening)

Elkins, WV - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Walter Corley KF8SX (304)637-0506

Hagerstown, MD - Antietam ARA (Hamfest) (Mountain ARC VEC)
Walk-In. Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576
Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674

**May
10
(Saturday)**

Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

**May
10
(Saturday)**

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC)
Walk-In
Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083

**May
17
(Saturday)**

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

Manchester, MD - Hanover Area Hamming Assn (ARRL VEC)
Walk-In accepted, Pre-Registration Encouraged
Contact: Ed Daves (410)239-8488

Smithsburg, MD - Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Association (ARRL VEC)
Pre- Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In. Contact the club voice BBS:
301-473-4151 box 110 or E-Mail "veteam@aol.com"

**May
27
(Tuesday)**

Glen Burnie, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Space Available
Contact: Jerry Gavin NU3D (410)761-1423

**May
30
(Friday)**

Stafford, VA - Stafford ARA (ARRL VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Jim McCloud N4LZJ
(540)786-8012

**June
1
(Sunday)**

Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day)
(301)773-2898 (Evening)

**June
7
(Saturday)**

Manassas, VA - Ole Virginia Hams ARC. Walk-in.
Contact: Harry Vorhauer, W4PVA
(703) 368-6050

**June
10
(Tuesday)**

Annapolis, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Space Available
Contact: Lois Turner KA3VVQ (410)647-4178

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!

**June
14
(Saturday)**

Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Cumberland, MD - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576
Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC)
Walk-In
Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083

**June
19
(Thursday)**

Towson, MD - Baltimore ARC (ARRL VEC)
Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Accepted
Contact: Ed Kriston N3WJA (410)HAM-TALK, Mailbox 3952

**June
21
(Saturday)**

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

Manchester, MD - Hanover Area Hamming Assn (ARRL VEC)
Walk-In accepted, Pre-Registration Encouraged
Contact: Ed Daves (410)239-8488

Frederick, MD - Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Association (ARRL VEC)
Pre- Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In. Contact the club voice BBS:
301-473-4151 box 110 or E-Mail "veteam@aol.com"

**July
6
(Sunday)**

Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day)
(301)773-2898 (Evening)

Elkins, WV - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Walter Corley KF8SX (304)637-0506

**July
12
(Saturday)**

Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC)
Walk-In
Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083

**July
13
(Sunday)**

Location TBA - Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Association (ARRL VEC)
Pre- Registration Desirable, Walk-In 9 - 10 AM during hamfest
Contact the club voice BBS: 301-473-4151 box 110 or E-Mail
"veteam@aol.com"

**July
19
(Sunday)**

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

Manchester, MD - Hanover Area Hamming Assn (ARRL VEC)
Walk-In accepted, Pre-Registration Encouraged
Contact: Ed Daves (410)239-8488

**July
26
(Saturday)**

Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg VE Team (ARRL VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK (540)373-7076

**August
3
(Sunday)**

Berryville, VA - Shenandoan Valley ARC (Hamfest)
(Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576
Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674

**August
9
(Saturday)**

Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Cumberland, MD - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576
Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083

**August
16
(Saturday)**

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

Sterling, VA - Dulles Amateur Radio Group (ARRL VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Mike Weber WB8RDN (703)450-2304

**August
21
(Thursday)**

Towson, MD - Baltimore ARC (ARRL VEC)
Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Accepted
Contact: Ed Kriston N3WJA (410)HAM-TALK, Mailbox 3952

**August
26
(Tuesday)**

Annapolis, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Space Available
Contact: Lois Turner KA3VVQ (410)647-4178

**September
26
(Friday)**

Stafford, VA - Stafford ARA (ARRL VEC) Walk-In
Contact: Jim McCloud N4LZJ (540)786-8012

**October
16
(Thursday)**

Towson, MD - Baltimore ARC (ARRL VEC)
Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Accepted
Contact: Ed Kriston N3WJA (410)HAM-TALK, Mailbox 3952

1997-1998 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION CLOSES SOON

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer sixty (60) scholarships for the academic year 1997 - 1998 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds five of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-five (65) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in **Delaware, Florida, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin**, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSI, card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1997 from:

FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD 20740

-TRAINING CLASSES -

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL TRAINING CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS TO THE TRAINING EDITOR, JOHN FORREST WZ4A, NOT TO THE AUTO CALL EDITOR.

NOVICE/TECHNICIAN COURSE - Frederick, MD. The Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Association will offer a 12 week course leading to a Technician license. The course will be held in Frederick Maryland near Hood College. Classes will be held Wednesday Evenings from 7 - 9 PM. For information or to pre-register call the MADRA Voice BBS: 301- 473-4151 Box 105 or the MADRA web site "members.aol.com/madraclub" There is no cost for the class. The text book is the ARRL "Now You're Talking".

NOVICE/TECHNICIAN COURSE - Martinsburg, WV. The Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Association will offer a 12 week course leading to a Technician License. The class will be held in Martinsburg, MD Convenient to I-81. No start date has been set. To Register or to get more information, contact the MADRA Voice BBS: 301-473-4151 box 105 or the MADRA web site "<http://members.aol.com/madraclub>". There is no cost for the class. The text book is the ARRL "Now You're Talking".

GENERAL/ADVANCED UPGRADE COURSE - Frederick, MD. The Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Association will present an upgrade course for General and Advanced class theory. The Course will be held in Frederick, MD near Hood College on Wednesday Evenings from 7 - 9 PM. There is no charge for the course. The text will be the ARRL General and Advanced class theory manuals. For more information or to pre-register, contact the MADRA Voice BBS: 301-473-4151 box 105 or the MADRA web site, "<http://members.aol.com/madraclub>".

GENERAL CLASS UPGRADE COURSE: The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club will present an upgrade course for the General class license beginning March 6, 1997. Both theory and Morse code (from 5 wpm to 13 wpm) will be offered. The course will be held at Gaithersburg High School in Gaithersburg, MD. Classes will be held each Thursday from 7:00 until 9:00 beginning March 6 and ending with exams on May 1. There is no charge for the course; however, students will be required to provide their own study manuals. You may purchase the manual yourself or order it when you sign up for the class. "The ARRL General Class License Manual" will be used. For more information or to sign up, call Rocky at 301-216-5210 or Peggy at 301-330-0027.



Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

EXAM FEES:

- * Check for appropriate exam fee. Fees and modes of payment for individual VECs and exam teams may vary.
- * ARRL VEC exams cost \$6.25
- * Laurel VEC exams are free
- * Mountain VEC exams are free
- * W5YI VEC exams cost \$6.25

BRING TO EXAM:

- * Picture identification
- * Completed FCC form 610 (most VE teams will supply at exam)
- * Original and a copy of current FCC amateur radio license
- * Originals and copies of all active certificates of successful completion of prior exams
- * Exam fee (check or cash depending on VE team)

"GRANDFATHER" CREDIT FOR ELEMENT 3B (GENERAL WRITTEN):

- * If you presently hold a Technician class license which was first issued prior to March 21, 1987, you may be grandfathered for Element 3B (General class written exam) by presenting the original and a copy of the license dated prior to March 21, 1987 to the VE team. It is your responsibility to prove that you are entitled to grandfathering. Do not lose your original license!

RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE FAR VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COOPERATIVE:

1. All submissions must be in writing
2. Date and day of week must be specified for each exam date
3. Point of contact and phone number must be specified
4. Sponsor and location must be specified
5. VEC must be specified
6. Exam dates up to 12 months in advance will be accepted
7. Deadline for submission is 25th of the 2nd month prior to publication date (e.g., January 25 for March issue)

Simplex (Calling) Frequencies in the NCAC Area

| Frequency | Area | Used by | Mode | Comments |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|
| 145.550 | ALL Area-wide | Shuttle/MIR | Packet | |
| 145.730 | ALL Area-wide | ARES | Packet | RACES/ARES/Skywarn |
| 145.750 | ALL Area-wide | ARES | Packet | RACES/ARES tcp/ip |
| 145.790 | ALL Area-wide | APRS | Packet | |
| 147.450 | ALL Area-wide | NASA Audio | Voice | |
| 146.505 | DC Washington | ARES | Voice | |
| 147.585 | DC Washington | ARES | Voice | |
| 446.025 | DC Washington | ARES | Voice | |
| 145.750 | MD Statewide | ARES | Packet | RACES EOC network |
| 146.430 | MD Anne Arundel | local | Voice | |
| 146.430 | MD Columbia | local | Voice | "AARC" |
| 146.460 | MD Montgomery#1 | RACES/ARES | Voice | |
| 146.475 | MD Carroll | ARES | Voice | |
| 146.580 | MD Frederick | ARES | Voice | |
| 146.580 | MD Ft. Meade | local | Voice | "Free State ARC" |
| 147.480 | MD Carroll | ARES | Voice | |
| 147.495 | MD Anne Arundel | local | Voice | "MD Mobileers" |
| 147.510 | MD Montgomery#2 | RACES/ARES | Voice | |
| 147.540 | MD Laurel | local | Voice | |
| 147.555 | MD Greenbelt | local | Voice | |
| 144.970 | VA Alexandria | replexer | ATV | repeater audio in/out |
| 144.990 | VA Woodbridge | ARES | Simplex | Rptr CTCSS 100.0 |
| 146.415 | VA Fairfax #5 | ARES | Voice | |
| 146.415 | VA Mt. Vernon | ARES | Voice | |
| 146.430 | VA Arlington | ARES | Voice | |
| 146.430 | VA Fauquier #1 | ARES | Voice | |
| 146.475 | VA Pr. Wm. | ARES | Voice | |
| 146.490 | VA Alexandria | ARES | Voice | |
| 146.565 | VA Fairfax #4 | ARES | Voice | |
| 146.580 | VA Arlington | local | Voice | |
| 146.595 | VA Fairfax #3 | ARES | Voice | |
| 147.435 | VA Fairfax #2 | ARES | Voice | |
| 147.450 | VA Fauquier #2 | ARES | Voice | |
| 147.495 | VA Fairfax #1 | ARES | Voice | |
| 147.525 | VA Pr. Wm. | ARES | Voice | |
| 445.925 | VA Fairfax #6 | ARES | Voice | |
| 445.950 | VA Arlington | ARES | Voice | |
| 446.050 | VA Alexandria | ARES | Voice | |

The "National Simplex (Calling) Frequencies" are: 146.520, 223.500, and 446.000.

Frequencies listed as "simplex voice" but used by packet are: 147.570 446.075.

Frequency uses inconsistent with the band plan have been omitted. Band plans for this area can be found at www.t-marc.org. On-line versions of this list can be found at www.t-marc.org and www.aresva.org (in the "District 2 — NCAC" section).

Send comments/updates to Ross Z. Merlin WA2WDT ross.merlin@usa.net

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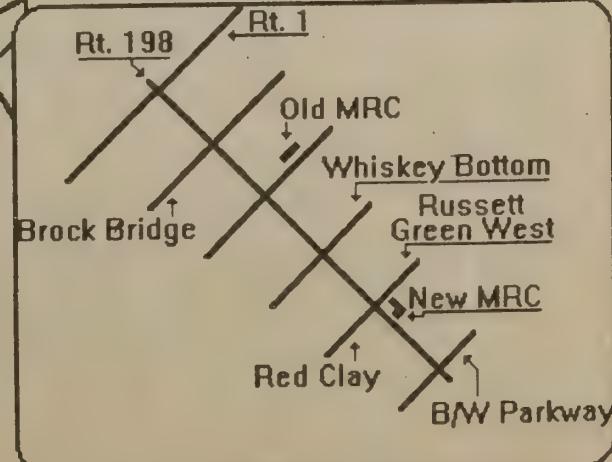
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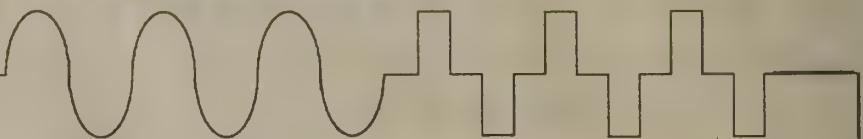
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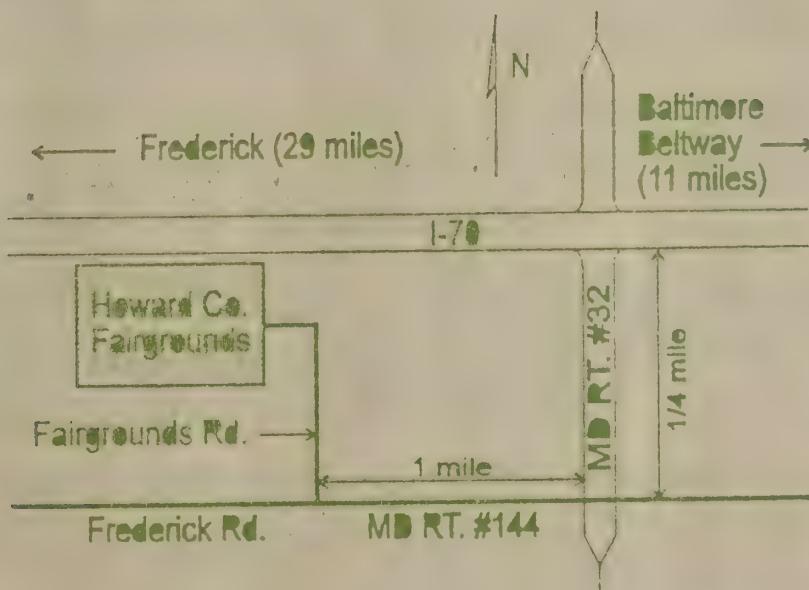
Memorial Day Hamfest Sunday, May 25, 1997

at the Howard County Fair Grounds
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Time: 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. - premises MUST be cleared by 5 p.m.

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Alexandria Radio Club

Meetings: Second Friday of each month, 8:00 PM at the Alexandria Fire Department Administrative Office (co-located with Fire Station #54), 900 Second St., Alexandria, VA
Nets: Every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. on 147.315 output / 147.915 input. (W4HFH repeater)

Web page: <http://members.aol.com/n4cwp/w4hfh.html> (or search on Yahoo: W4HFH)

Information: Rich -KA4GFY, 703-644-3920.

Although a club column was submitted for the March edition of Auto Call, it was not included. That article advised of; the March meeting program, the March 8th St. Patrick's Day parade through Oldtown, and the March 22nd Alexandria Fire Department/ Red Cross evacuation/ shelter drill, and comments about two of our members who participated in communications support activity with Mount Vernon ARC at the annual Chili Softball league competition. The original column report may be found at the club's website (see the information box above for web address.)

Moving on to current events, local hams from this club, Mount Vernon ARC, and D.C., participated in Alexandria's annual George Washington birthday parade (his 265th birthday). Among the celebrities participating was a person looking strangely like President Abraham Lincoln (maybe a coincidence that the parade fell on the President's Day holiday). Thanks to all who made the commitment, and participated (some on very short notice): Demi - K4BSA, Bill - KC4VXH, Julie - KD4WSZ, Bill - KE4BAE, Josh - KE4CKZ, BJ - KE4JPA, Richard - KE4POK, Vince - KE4SKW, George - KS4FD, Lenny - N3RPQ, Tom - N4BYF, Harry - N4CWP, Jeanne - N4ZGI, Steve - NP2IL, and Steve - WB4EEA. A pre-tested 2 meter simplex frequency worked very well, even amongst the dozen block stretch of the parade route through the structures of Oldtown.

Speaker topics for upcoming club meetings are being coordinated by the Vice President, Rick, N4ASX. Speaker and topic information will be timely posted on the club's web page, or may be obtained from Rick by calling him at 703-317-9305.

All current (paid-up dues) members are encouraged to attend the April meeting as significant club financial issues are anticipated and may be voted on.

73, NP2IL



Anne Arundel Radio Club

Meetings: 8 PM 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Queen Anne Bridge & Wayson Roads off MD Rt. 214 near Annapolis.

On the air: 2030 Thursdays when there is no club meeting on 147.705/105; Tuesdays at 2030 local time on 28.410. Wednesdays at 2000 on 444.400. The Chesapeake Weather & Traffic Net on 147.705/105 at 1100 and 1500 every weekend day and public holiday from April 1 to November 15. MSN (Maryland Slow Net) every evening at 1930 on 3.7170 MHz.

Address: P.O. Box 308, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

Information: Margaret (Holly) Bevan, 410-923-0229.

Several club members received awards at The AARC Awards and Recognition Dinner held at the Bay Ridge Inn on January 17th. Plaques were presented to Bob Baltz/N3MNT, outgoing president, to Barbara White/N3OBU, outgoing secretary, and to Rich Boyd/KE3Q, outgoing director. Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Contributions to AARC were presented to Dick McKelvie/KE3HQ, Bruce

Strackbein/KE3PT, John Williams/K8JW, Keith Monahan/N3LDF, Randy DeKroney/N3MNX, Will DeKroney/N3MNW, Ray Sofield/KA3YMK and Margie Currey/KA3PQP.

Two AARC club members received special honors recently. Morris Blum/NY3L received the eighth annual Morris H. Blum Humanitarian Award, named in honor of his commitment to ending segregation, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner on January 15th. Mayor Alfred A. Hopkins and the Annapolis City Council honored him on January 13th. Mr. Blum has owned and operated WANN Radio Station for 50 years. He promoted racial harmony by being the first radio station to play gospel and jazz music, by giving protesters air time to voice their grievances when racial tensions flared and by hiring employees based on their qualifications rather than their color. He was doing all this long before the Civil Rights Act was passed. WANN shifted from the rhythm and blues format to country three years ago.

Dick McKelvie/KE3HQ missed the AARC Awards Dinner because he was attending another dinner where he was notified that he is the recipient of the NISOD Excellence Award. NISOD, the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, presents this award annually to the person selected as the national winner. The Community Colleges of Baltimore County nominated Dick for the honor for recognized excellence in teaching and contributions to the institution. He will go to Dallas, TX to accept the honor on May 1st.

It is with sadness that we report the recent deaths of two of our members. Melvin S. Hastings/W3PJ of Severna Park died of cancer December 20th at home. Mel was a WWII veteran. After his discharge from the Navy, he worked for 41 years for the former Westinghouse Electric Corp. Space and Defense Center. Carl S. Menchey, Jr., 73, of Orange Park, FL, and a longtime resident of Annapolis, died February 8th after a long illness. He retired in 1984 after working 42 years for IBM in the area. He was a very active AARC member until ill health forced him to curb his efforts.

Congratulations to Ed Robertson/KE3XG and Steve Werner/KS4YY who have upgraded to Extra, to Mark Taylor/N3TEL and Ed Burnham/N3TDG who are now Advanced and to Kelly Fast/N3XUJ, Andy Anderson/N3XVO and Peter Edles/N3YDX who now have General tickets.

73, Holly/N3MB



Antietam Radio Association

Meetings: First and Third Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Washington County Regional Airport, Showalter Road, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 52, Hagerstown, MD. 21741

Nets: Tuesday 7 p.m. 146.940 MHz.; Wednesday 7 p.m. 447.975 MHz.; Thursday 7 p.m. 147.090 MHz.

Repeaters: 147.09+ and 146.94 -.

Information: Donnie Sue Mulligan/KB3AOO (301) 582-2984

We have had a good winter, so far. Hope we don't get any more snow than we have had. It would have to be cooler than it is today; it's close to 60 degrees as I write this on February 27 and we are supposed to get near 70 before this day is over.

Amanda Daywalt/N3TVD said she would go to the E.O.C. Building (the Bomb Shelter) at the courthouse at about 10 a.m. on February 22 and invited all to come for the Hamfest Meeting. Our Hamfest is to be held on May 4, 1997 at the Athletic, Recreation, and Community Center at Hagerstown Junior College. A few gathered at the Bomb Shelter...Bill Harclerode/N8URC, Carlo Belella/R3ABH, Matt Redding/JN3XJO, Charlie Mulligan/N3MVR, and Donnie Sue/KB3AOO were there. We are going again March 1 at 11 a.m. and hope we can get some more things done for the Hamfest. We need some more helpers for the

Hamfest and if you want to help, get in touch with Matt Redding/N3XJO and/or Don Jones/KB8WHW (or anyone in ARA) to volunteer.

Page Pyne/WA3EOP is returning to his play/job as Chairman of the MD/DC QSO Party as he was at the beginning when ARA took over the MD/DC QSO PARTY several years ago. Al Brown/WA3FYZ and John Smith/N3TDN are on the Committee. Thank you, Page, Al, and John. Page has redesigned the certificates, and made one for participants and one for the winners. They are nice; we got a look at them on February 18.

Donna Peters/N3LFY attended the meeting on the 18th of February. We were all happy to see her once again. She gave us an update on Nat DeGutz/W2CXB. Get well, Nat!

Hope everyone had a wonderful Easter in March! Have a beautiful, SAFE April Fool's Day! Don't forget the Hamfest on May 4, 1997...

73, Donnie Sue/KB3AOO



Arlington Amateur Radio Club

Meeting: Third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M., Red Cross building, 4333 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA. Nonmembers welcome!

Net: Tuesdays (except meeting nights), 7:30 P.M., 144.87/145.47 Mhz FM.

Information: Mike Callahan, NW3V @ WA3TAI, callahan@CapAccess.org, (703) 241-5618.

LLBBS: Area 1 of Beachcomber Joe's BBS (703) 243-0024.

The Arlington Amateur Radio Club met at the Arlington County American Red Cross Chapter house on Tuesday, February 18. Seven members were present.

Jack, WA4FXX gave a brief presentation on the INSPIRE Workshop that was held at Gallaudet University on February 8. INSPIRE is a program supported by NASA and others to motivate high school students towards scientific fields of study and work. At the workshop, 16 teachers and students built very low frequency (2 to 10 kHz) radio receiver kits and listened to radio signals in the atmosphere, ionosphere and magnetosphere. The MIR space station fired electron and plasma beams, but none of the students received these signals. Jack showed us several of the spectrograms (frequency vs time) that were recorded.

Tom, N4BYF reminded all that the Arlington County American Red Cross 10k Run will be on May 18 and we will need hams to man the kilometer posts. Our president Mike, NW3V presented an introduction to the BP2M packet modem. This particular BP2M was to have been a Christmas present for his father-in-law. We suspect that this presentation was an excuse, for the delay in mailing this very nice present.

The BayPac BP2M attaches to the serial port of the computer where it receives the power for the terminal node controller (TNC). Mike made a jury rig cable for his laptop, but has been unable to get it to work. The BP2M is a Multimode packet modem and is reported to transcribe CW, RTTY, AMTOR, PACTOR, WEFAX and a number of other modes, using available free software.

73 de KT4EL, Walt

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Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Meetings: Twice monthly, 7:30 pm at Towson Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake and Highland Avenues, Towson, Md.. -First Wednesday of the month -business meeting, Third Wednesday of the month - program.

Repeaters: W3FT/RPTR 146.67(-), 224.24 (-) (no PL) and 449.625(-)(PL 107.2) Note: two meter/220 Mhz. repeaters are linked.

Club Net: Every Tuesday night at 8:30 pm on 146.67/224.24.

NTS Net: Daily at 6:30 pm on 146.670/224.240

Club BBS: (410) 252-6238 (min. 2400 baud)

Information: (410) HAMTALK

Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest/Maryland State ARRL Convention information: (410) HAM-FEST or (800) HAM-FEST.

Club Address: BARC, Inc., P.O. BOX 120, Reisterstown MD 21136

It's been a busy spring. Our business meeting on February 5 was superseded when Ted, W3OWN arranged for his friend, Frank Witt, AI1H, to stop by in his travels and speak about tuners and how to calculate the RF loss in tuners, transmission lines, baluns, and all the antenna system.

While the presentation was fairly technical, the audience of about 35 was captivated. Our thanks to Ted and Frank for this great presentation. Normally, the first Wednesday of the month is our business meeting, and the third Wednesday is reserved entirely for the Program meeting.

The Maryland State Convention is coming up, and BARC is proud to host it at the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest. Hopefully, you are reading this as we make the last minute preparations for this extravaganza. We've added some additional presentations to the convention program, including Ron Parise, Space Shuttle

Astronaut, who will be bringing his "vacation pictures" from high orbit. The program also includes Bob Bruninga on APRS, Steve Ford on the Phase 3D satellite, and Kay Craigie & Bernie Fuller for the ARRL forum.

Testing will be conducted on Sunday, April 6, in the Vista Room, just South of the Exhibition Hall. Walkins Welcome!!

Fox hunting continues on a monthly basis. The February hunt featured N3VEJ, hiding in a ditch in a county park, with a 3 element beam and HT. It was one of those busy Sunday afternoons where few had time for the hunt, but Tom, N3YHC, was first to find me, using only his HT.

In his cooperative hunt, everyone shares their spotting data, and spent a fair amount of time explaining to Tom over the radio how to do body fading to get a direction reading. Everyone is welcome to join in our hunts. For information on the next one, dial 410-HAM-TALK on the telephone.

Ed, N3WJA, is working hard on plans for Field Day. If you wish to help out, please be sure to tell Ed in what capacity you can help.

We hope to see you all at the Hamboree and Convention, April 5 & 6 at Timonium State Fairgrounds.

73 de Doug, N3VEJ

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Capital City Amateur Radio Society

Meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month at 1200 hours at the Woodridge Public Library, 18th and Rhode Island Ave, N.E., Washington, D.C. Visitors welcome.

Repeater: W3EIL 144.51/145.11 MHz, open. **Nets:** Regular net Wednesday at 2000 hrs, RTTY net Thursdays 2100 hrs, voice portion 2145 hrs, all on 145.110.

Mailing Address: CCARS, 1719 Franklin Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20018-2033.

Information: Steve, W3ETX, (202) 526-1329 or Chester, W3EIL (202) 529-9598.

CCARS Birthday Party at Ft. McNair Officer's Club, February 19, 1997 was a rousing success. A representative number of members were in attendance with their YL's, XYL's and families.

The meeting was presided over by our President, John N3TCD. Each female received beautiful roses presented by the club. The founding members of CCARS were recognized and presented to the group. A delicious meal and birthday cake was enjoyed by our guests.

Attendance on the weekly Wednesday night net is improving. Leo, KA3TGY does a fantastic job as net control running the net. All amateur radio operators are invited to join the club net each Wednesday night at 2000 hours on 145.11 MHz.

I attended the Winterfest at Vienna, VA on February 25, 1997. CCARS members were in attendance and participated in the tailgate bargaining.

Look for an announcement about our coming Atlantic City trip.

Joe, K3UAL



Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 7:30pm, at the Doctors Community Hospital, 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD (no meeting in December). Enter in the Outpatient Testing entrance across from the Emergency Room entrance behind the main building. Take the elevator to the 5th floor and exit left, the meeting room (DSE Room) is on the right.

Repeater: N3EZD/R 145.230 MHz.

Net: Every Tuesday, 9:30pm, 145.230 MHz repeater.

Mailing Address: Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 788, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0788.

Information: Jim Tilton, Pres. - KD3JA, (301) 552-0012.)

CMARC's regular February meeting featured a presentation by Tony Young/WA3YLO on Amateur Radio Traffic Handling.

Following Tony's informative overview of the Amateur Radio Traffic Relay System and traffic handling procedures, we discussed DWI (disaster welfare inquiry) issues and how to go about offering a message service to the public at a special event (see our discussion on the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival below). A big thank you to Tony for a very interesting program!

At our business meeting we went through a list of upcoming events that CMARC plans to be involved in. Discussed were the BARC Hambooree (April 5-6), Christmas in April (April 26), the CROP Walk (May 4), Field Day (June 28-9), the BRATS Hamfest (July 27) and the MD/DC QSO Party (mid August).

Most of our discussion, however, centered on our involvement in the Greenbelt Labor Day

Festival (Aug 30 - Sept 1). For the past two years, CMARC has operated a food booth featuring Brownies al la mode and Tropicana drinks at the Festival. This effort has raised some fund for the club, but it was generally felt that the effort expended was not worth the amount of money raised. In addition, since CMARC members were tied up operating the food booth through-out the Festival, we were missing an opportunity to advertise the club and Amateur Radio effectively to the public.

On a nearly unanimous vote (a couple abstentions and no negative votes), the club voted to no longer operate a food booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival and instead operate a multi-faceted special event station at the Festival. We would also continue to provide communications for the Greenbelt Labor Day parade.

This, of course, converts CMARC's involvement in the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival to 100% public service status with no fund raising activity at all. We discussed providing at our special event station demonstrations of HF and VHF voice communications, packet radio, SSTV and microwave communications. In addition, we hope to provide a free message service (probably utilizing a special "canned" message tailored to the Festival), and recruit students for our annual Novice/Technician class to be held during the fall.

73 de Jim/KD3JA



QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION
159 East 16th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401-4017
Voice: (541) 683-0987, Fax: (541) 683-4181
e-mail: jwalsh@teleport.com
Home page: <http://www.efn.org/~qcwa>



Dulles Amateur Radio Group

On-the-air meeting: Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. on the Dulles Airport repeater.

Repeater: N4FSC, 145.310 (Dulles Airport)

Mailing: Dulles Amateur Radio Group, P.O. Box 5073, Herndon, VA 20172-1964

Information: Mike Weber, WB8RDN, 703-450-2304

The Dulles Amateur Radio Group (DARG) is a family-oriented ham radio club affiliated with the N4FSC repeater in Dulles, VA. Membership is open to all, and the club holds several social and operating events each year. Dues are \$20/yr for your entire family; members have access to the repeater's autopatch, and dues include a subscription or renewal to AutoCall. All area hams are warmly invited to join our information net on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 pm.

DARG planned a seminar on the Internet, featuring Mark, KR4FH of UUNet. Unfortunately, this seminar had to be postponed, and will be rescheduled for the near future. Listen to the Tuesday evening net for details.

By the time you read this, DARG will have held its most recent social event, a family dinner at Fudrucker's in Herndon. DARG is strong on family events, and we hope you'll join us for our next social. Check into the net for dates and places. And speaking of the net, congrats to our net manager Mike, KD4ITN on his recent upgrade to Advanced. Way to go, Mike!

DARG is planning for Field Day, but we need someone to head it up. Anyone wishing to take on this important and challenging position should contact Mike, WB8RDN at 703-450-2304.

73 de Mike, N4PDY



Fauquier Amateur Radio Association

Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Second Thursday of the month except July, August and December. Crestar Bank, Warrenton Ctr, Warrenton VA.

Breakfast: Last Saturday of the month at Western Sizzlin Warrenton VA 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Net: Every Wednesday, 9:00 p.m., 147.165 Mhz NZ4N Repeater.

Packet: KE4YVU FARA7 node 145.070 Mhz with direct connect to FBBS9, FBBS9 Bulletin Board 145.090 Mhz, FARA9 node 145.090 Mhz.

Repeater: NZ4N/R 147.165 Mhz (+.600).

Newsletter: TOROID, Monthly. Deadline for submissions: 20th of the month. Contact Bonnie, n4qpb@mnsinc.com

Information: Chuck Gould, N4YXW 540-347-0112, FARA, PO Box 752, Warrenton VA 20187.

Next meeting: April 10th.

FCC EXAM May 1, Crestar Bank, Warrenton, contact Neil AB4YK 540 364 3861. Candidates and VE's please mark your calendars. (If you have been thinking of taking the open book VE exam, do it now! VEs, please check to be sure your ARRL validation is current. General, Advance and Extra class hams talk to Neil AB4YK for more information about becoming a volunteer examiner — Please!)

FARA will participate in communications and car parking direction for the Commonwealth Dressage Association's program. FARA will participate in this event on May 26 starting at 7:00 am. The event will last until 4:00 pm. \$1000 will be raised by the participation of about 20 of our club members. Don, WY2V will coordinate. Thanks to Larry, K4LLQ, for developing this most excellent opportunity for the club.

The February FARA meeting was held at

Crestar Bank Thursday Feb 13, with 25 members and visitors present. Here are some of the key items from the minutes.

Thanks to FARA Charter Member, Gene Garrison, K4KSU, who brought a donation of dozens of World Radio TV Handbooks courtesy of a prestigious international communications organization.

Bob Wikfors, KF4FJC, and Ellie Wikfors, KF4NBO, were welcomed to FARA as regular members and Craig Heffner, KF4NYZ, was welcomed as a Junior member. We look forward to their full participation in club activities.

The membership was treated to a fascinating presentation on QRP by one of our own, Bill, W4NFR, who brought dozens of QRP equipment items ranging from miniature CW keys to sophisticated transceivers, antennas and gadgetry for QRP field and base station communications. It was a great display!

Bonnie is the TOROID editor and has her very own private email address. Please contact her directly with Toroid info at: n4qpb@mnsinc.com

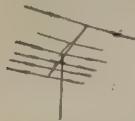
Check out our club web page: <http://www.mnsinc.com/ki4ro/fara.htm>.

73, Mark



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Home page: <http://www.efn.org/~qcwa>



Goddard Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Meeting: Third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Goddard Amateur Radio Club station, Soil Conservation Road, Greenbelt, MD, across from the Soil Conservation Road gate of the Goddard Space Flight Center. This road may be accessed from either Route 193, Greenbelt Road, or Powder Mill Road.

Net: Information net is held every Thursday evening at 9:00 p.m. local time. All amateur radio operators are welcomed. Net Control is Don Bennett, W3MIK.

Repeater: 146.835 Mhz.

Information: Jim Blackwell, N3KWU, (301) 286-4534; Vikki Gigante-Hueber, KA3PVS, (301) 249-2609.

STS-82 was a very successful mission. The Hubble Space Telescope repair mission featured several space walks and it is now functioning as well as expected. WA3NAN was up and running while the astronauts were awake this mission. Thanks to operator support, we were able to keep the station up during the entire mission. Thanks to all for their e-mails of encouragement and kudos! The next mission is April 3 with launch at 2:01 p.m. Columbia, STS-83 will be the Microgravity Science Lab and a SAREX mission. STS-84 will launch on Atlantis at 4:05 a.m. and will be the next Mir Docking mission. This will be a nine day mission. STS-84, Discovery will fly on July 17 at 10:04 am and will feature Crista-Spas-2 as its payload. It will be a ten day mission.

GARC is running a novice tech class on Thursdays at 3:15 p.m. in cooperation with DuVal High School. John Baugus, one of our members is also teaching a novice tech class on Sundays at 3:30 p.m. at the Odenton Police Station. He will begin an upgrade class at the same time and same place on the Sunday after Easter.

GARC is preparing for elections in May. People who are full members of GARC are welcome to run for office.

The club will have a booth at the BARC Hamboree on April 5 & 6 and Ron Parise, WA4SIR and a club member will be speaking at the Hamboree on April 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Our new storage trailer is in place and this will hopefully lead the way to clearing out of the main trailer and returning it to general radio operations usage. We are planning to refurbish this trailer now that the shuttle retransmission trailer is complete and functional. Come see us and we will show you what is new at WA3NAN.

Happy Spring!

Vikki, KA3PVS



Green Mountain Repeater Association

Meetings: Board of Directors, Last Monday of each month.

Repeaters: KD3VR-146.61 (Cheverly), K3GXF-146.88 (Greenbelt).

Luncheon: First Saturday of each month at the Fountain Cafe, in the Laurel Shopping Center Mall, US Route 1 (Baltimore Ave.) and Cherry Lane. Starts at 11:30 AM. Monitor 146.88 for Talk-In.

Nets: Old Gents Net meets on 146.88 each day at 9:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Association Net meets on 146.88 each Thursday at 9:30 P.M.

Mail: P.O. Box 523, Bowie, MD 20718-0523.

Information: John Williams, N5SJZ, (301) 805-5761.

GMRA OFFICERS FOR 1997 - After many years of dedicated service to GMRA, Joe Nunemaker, KD3VR has stepped down as President. Joe will remain as 2nd Vice President

and Technical Director in charge of the repeaters. The following new GMRA slate of officers became effective January 27, 1997:

PRESIDENT: Paul Freirich - W3HFA
1st VICE PRESIDENT: John Williams - N5SJZ
2nd VICE PRESIDENT: Joe Nunemaker-KD3VR
SECRETARY: C.T. David - W3GXF
TREASURER: Don Tinari - W3RYQ

ARTICLES IN QST - Congratulations are in order for still another GMRA article in QST. Entitled "Here's To the Women", it appeared in the YL NEWS column, (page 95) of the February 1997 issue. The article lauds GMRA's women members and their contributions to the Association and the amateur community.

73 MAGAZINE COVER/ARTICLE - GMRA's John Williams, N5SJZ, appears on the front cover of the March issue of 73 Magazine. Inside find a cover article by ex Prez, Joe Nunemaker, KD3VR, on kite flying and antennas. John's XYL Debby, N5SKA and Glenn, N3UCE participated.

REPEATER INTERNET CONNECTION TESTS - GMRA has been testing the connection of our repeaters to the Internet Phone system. Members have been able to talk through our 2 meter repeaters to other amateurs in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Alaska, Central America, and the United States. Additionally other repeaters have been linked. Listen for voice announcements and watch for Email schedules. Comments invited.

EMAIL TO GMRA MEMBERS - GMRA began Email service to members in January. The Email provides rapid announcements about GMRA activities, may be used by members for questions and membership changes and supplements repeater voice announcements and Newsletters. 50% of GMRA membership have Email capability, or about 112 members. If you wish to receive the GMRA Email, please call K3BEQ, Murray at 301-773-5730 or Email to mgreen@erols.com

A FEW GOOD PEOPLE - Joe Nunemaker, KD3VR, Technical Director for our repeaters, is looking for a few good people with prior experience in working on Motorola repeaters or communications equipment, to assist him in maintenance. Working in cramped quarters in all kinds of weather is a prerequisite. Contact Joe at 301-577-3749.

REPEATERS TRANSMIT PL - On February 1, our repeaters began transmitting a Private Line (PL) tone of 77 herz. The PL, if programmed into your HT or mobile unit's receiver (CTCSS), will mute it's speaker and open it only when the repeater transmits. This should eliminate inter-mod and other "junk" type noises. Other frequencies programmed into your receiver will not be affected. Additionally, the PL DOES NOT affect your capability to transmit into the repeater. Note: Some equipment may require an optional plug-in module to activate it's receiver CTCSS programming so please check your manual.

LUNCHEON TURNOUT IS LARGE! - I don't know if it was the new Email announcement service or cabin fever but the February GMRA luncheon had the largest turnout in years. Over 60 members turned out for the monthly get-together at the Laurel Mall. We also gained four new members at the Luncheon. Let us welcome N3NYM-Paul, N3QDX-Sharlene, N3FB-David and N3YPL-Mark. GMRA membership now tops 225 members!

UPGRADE - GMRA's youngest ham at age 14, Samson, N3TJU, upgraded to General class license on February 15th and additionally passed his 20 wpm CW test. Way to go Samson!

AN ASIDE - Ken Easton, (GMRA Auto Call column scribe) doesn't know about this last entry but in February he celebrated his 77th birthday. Congrats Ken and many, many more to come. Ken does a great job in writing and "never missing" an Auto Call column these many years. It's a difficult job gathering information every month and on

behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership I want to thank him for his unselfish efforts. And if you don't know Ken he is one of the nicest and most gracious people I have had the pleasure to know. Thanks again from all of us. (de Murray K3BEQ)

73 de N3HLY, Ken Easton



Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month, 5:30 PM, In the Historical Electronics Museum, West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing Roads, Linthicum, Maryland (Next to BWI Marriott Hotel).

Net: Monday 8:00 PM, 146.67(-)/224.24(-) MHz (courtesy of BARC).

Club Station: W3GR.

Info: Herman Turner, WK3P (410) 647-4178.

Mail: P.O. Box 746, Mail Stop 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203.

Street address: 1745 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum, MD 21090.

The February 1997 Meeting

The buzz before the meeting was on the success of several members in contacting the Heard Island Dxpedition on 30 and 40 Meters. There were many compliments on their professionalism. T-shirts were offered to help offset the cost overrun the Dxpedition members are trying to whittle down.

HEMARC is proud to renew its application as an ARRL affiliate Club and is encouraging increased public service participation by all members.

A discussion was held on the recent 70CM band action by the government of Guatemala. By transferring the band from Amateur to Commercial

services they are creating a serious potential problem for Satellite amateur operations for many countries. Other threats to amateur bands were also discussed. The bottom line is that we will only be able to enjoy our fine hobby and its value to public service by being constantly alert and responding to the threats as they appear.

Heru Wamsley, W3WVV and Ray Robley, KD3KK reported that the first offering of the Special Training Course in building and operating amateur electronics equipment was completely subscribed at 10 students. Those signing up that were too late for the 10 openings will be automatically at the top of the list for the next session.

Dean Bush, K3KHG reported that the new benches are ready to be moved to the museum for the new W3GR station. This will require moving the TBL-13 and relocating the other equipment. A working party to include Gary Ryan, W3GMY; Ernie Farkas, K3CBW; Herman Turner, WK3P; Chuck Angel, AA3FB and Heru Wamsley, W3WVV will make the move and rearrangement on Saturday March 1, 1997.

Chuck Angel, AA3FB reported that the newly acquired BC-610H has passed the first smoke tests. Some minor repairs remain but it is looking very good.

Preliminary discussion was held on Field Day 97 planning. At the next meeting committees will be formed and detailed planning will begin.

A discussion was held on the ARRL request for input on restructuring the Technician/Novice, Technician + requirements and operating privileges.

An opinion ballot was distributed and when the completed forms are compiled the results will be the basis for our response.

Rol Anders, K3RA announced that we have located an antique keyer for the W3GR station. It

is a Hallicrafters TO electronic CW keyer, one of the first made commercially for the amateur community.

The technical meeting was a 4 section show and tell by Heru Wamsley, W3WVV; Topics included were the nature, aging and restoration of electrolytic capacitors, how to test old by pass capacitors, inexpensive MIMIC UHF power amplifiers and low cost waveguide components for amateurs. Everyone learned something useful and interesting.

73 de Chip, W4PBG



Laurel Amateur Radio Club

A Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each month (except November & December) 7:30pm at 384 Main Street, Laurel Md.

Social: 2nd Wednesday of each month, except December (Call for directions).

Nets: 1st & 3rd & 5th Wednesdays, 8:30pm, on 147.225+, no tone.

Mail: P. O. Box 3039, Laurel, MD 20709-0039

Exams: 3rd Saturday of each month, to pre-register contact: John/WB3GXW (301) 572-5124 after 6 P.M.

Information: Jim/WI3N (301)725-6829 or Pud/W3YD (301)498-6293.

Since our last appearance on these pages, the Laurel club has helped the DC Roadrunners with their President's Day Marathon, run on a course that winds through the Beltsville Agricultural Center. The club has been supporting this event for many years and as usual we had a fine turnout.

We set up a net control station at the start/finish line and run a directed net operation. We keep a vehicle roving the course available to pick up people with dehydration problems, shin splints, or

just plain pooped runners. This time we responded to about four problems. We made some suggestions regarding temporary road signage to try to get traffic to slow down. Maybe next year we will see some signage.

We have a list of about sixteen different public events that we help with and several other club events such as a special event station that we will be operating on Father's Day (June 15) using a member's call - W3DAD, MD-DC QSO party which we will try to win again this year in August, ARRL phone Sweep Stakes in November, and our annual Holiday Banquet in December.

Several members will be conducting a class for the Novice/Tech class license in September. Look for further info in Auto-Call later in the year.

The meeting in March will feature Chris Imlay/W3KD. Chris is the general counsel for the ARRL. He will be speaking on a variety of topics near and dear to amateur radio enthusiasts. The club will be sending out invitations to hams in the surrounding zip codes introducing ourselves and inviting them to the meeting. We would certainly welcome anyone who would like to drop by.

Our new president, Mark/N3NTQ has been busy updating our club brochure, making contact with local scout districts, and lining up chair people for our many events. I think it is a benefit to individuals and amateur radio in general if hams, old and new, align themselves with clubs.

Clubs lend a sense of purpose to the hobby and provide many benefits to the members. Those benefits run the gamut from a repeater to use, events to hone operating skills, speakers to enhance our technical knowledge, and the fellowship of a variety of people who really want to see you have a great time with the hobby. If you're not in a club now, this magazine is full of clubs to choose from.

73 de Jim/WI3N



The Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Amateur Society, Inc.

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Thursdays - 7:00 P.M.
NBC Building - WKYS Conference Room,
4001 Nebraska Avenue, Washington, DC.

Nets: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:00 P.M. on
145.45 MHz (PL-5A).

Repeaters: 444.100/449.100 MHz (PL-2A),
145.45/144.85 MHz (PL-5A).

WWW Address: <http://mvhsl.mrhs.edu/~fwright/MADRAS.html>

Mailing: P. O. Box 2468, Wheaton, MD 20902

Information: Larry Ziecheck - N3GKZ (301) 984-6113, Jean Blacik N3PLC (301) 984-6113.

MADRAS regrets any inconvenience caused to its members and the users of the 440 and the 145.45 repeaters during a period in February and March. We experienced problems with both repeaters, unfortunately at the same time, and had to initiate repairs. Thanks for your patience and understanding during this period of down time.

At our February 13th meeting, Leo Boberschmidt KA3TGY, gave a wonderful presentation entitled "Anatomy of a Major DXpedition: The VK0IR Story" Twenty-one operators from 10 countries plus seven pilot stations ventured to Heard Island in the South Indian Ocean and operated from January 15th to the 27th of this year. What a once in a lifetime experience that must have been.

Speaking of traveling to out of the way places, three of our female members, Jean N3PLC, Michele WK3X and Sandy N3TQE, took advantage of a "Ladies Only" special and spent four days in Iceland. They had a great time visiting woolen factories, shopping malls, restaurants and spas. The group is already looking into more specials they can take advantage of. Once the traveling bug hits you it sure is hard to get rid of.

Requests for QSL's from our W3USS special event are still rolling in. We plan on holding a QSL writing party in March in order to send out cards to all of those of have sent in requests, so far.

Thanks to those of you who have voiced your suggestions as to what our next special event should be. We will discuss the various possibilities at our second meeting in March and start to make plans as to what historical event we want to celebrate and where we want to celebrate it from.

Don't forget to check into our Net on the first and third Thursday of the month at 9:00 P.M. on 145.45. We have a great time and all are welcome.

73 Jean-N3PLC



Metrovision Amateur TV Club

Fast Scan Color ATV

Meetings: Quarterly: Time and place TBD.

Repeater: WA9GVK/4 (video/audio) Input: 425-431 Mhz. Output: 438-444 Mhz. Accessible 144.970 Simplex FM Voice.

On-the-air: Sundays and Wed. 8:00 P.M.

Mailing: Metrovision, Inc., 3422 Silver Maple Place, Falls Church, VA 22042.

Information: Sam - N3GHY (301 430-3373)

Jim - KA4CKI (703494-342)

Tom - KO4OX (540-752-2100)

Rich - KA3BTD (301-843-1253)

While thumbing through my February complementary Nut & Volts magazine I came across some 439.250 MHZ ATV transmitters and receivers. Only \$159.00 is the cost of an ATV receiver or if you wish for the same price you can purchase the ATV transmitter. Not bad considering the cost of the commercially available equipment. Our ATV transmitter is on 439.250 and the receiver is exactly what you need to tune us in. I am considering getting a transmitter and receiver so I

will be able to put the transmitter in a model race car or on a balloon teetered to my fence so I can get a birds eye view of the neighborhood.

Bernie-W4SW has a second call sign from England. He has the call of GOPAA and uses it during his travels there. This past week Bernie had a couple of visitors from England. A husband and wife he met over the air on a local 70 cm. repeater near central London. They became good friends and made a stop at Bernie's QTH during their visit to the Washington, DC area.

We did an ATV demonstration for Bob-G4XDD and his wife Vickie-G1ZDD. Bob also has a U. S. call sign of NV3Y. Both Bob and Vickie were quite surprised of the quality of the pictures at Bernie's QTH.

Jim-KA4CKI gave a talk on ATV to one of the local clubs in the area. I think it was the Antietam Radio Assoc. I lost my notes trying to get the article out on time (sorry Jim).

Jim-KA4CKI, myself and others in the club have given talks on ATV. Keep us in mind if you would like someone from our club to give a short talk on ATV. We have a unique mode in the amateur radio community and we at Metrovision enjoy it as much as you do with your favorite mode of amateur radio communications.

All of the ATV members would like to make a special comment to our ATV technical maintenance and repair committee. We would like to thank both Jim Tury-KA4CKI and Bruce Brown-WA9GVK for the great work and time they have spent to keep the ATV repeater in top working order.

"I'll be seeing you" 73's Rich-KA3BTD

Reminder - all submissions for
AUTOMOBILE  **CALENDAR**
are due no later than
the 1st of the month prior to the
month of publication!!



National Capitol DX Association

Meetings: Feb, Apr, Jun, Oct and Dec. at a member's home. Contact the Secretary (Rick Murphy, WA1SPT) for details.

On-the-air: Every Sunday at 8:30 PM on the 147.000 repeater. All are welcome!

Information: Rick Murphy-WA1SPT (703) 280-2637 or Leo Boberschmidt-KA3TGY (301) 946-3738.

The February meeting was held on the 22nd at the home of Rick (K1MU, ex WA1SPT) and Diane Murphy in Annandale. Our sincere thanks to Rick and Diane for hosting this meeting. At this meeting, NCDXA voted in favor of a generous contribution to the VKØIR DXpedition. The VKØIR operation was a stupendous operation that will be the model for any serious DXpedition in the future. Among the various items of other business covered at this meeting was a discussion of a QSL card for our new club call sign: NC3DX. Leo, KA3TGY, had a mock up of a possible card and, after incorporating members' comments, will place an order for these cards.

We were all pleasantly surprised by a visit from a member at large: Nancy, NK4U, paid us a visit from her new home in Kennesaw, GA and was also at the Vienna Winterfest the next day.

NEW CALLS: Several of our members have had call sign changes during the recent vanity call sign period. The following are call sign changes known to date:

| Name | Old Call | New Call |
|-------|----------|----------|
| Rick | WA1SPT | K1MU |
| Ron | AA4EL | K3OSX |
| Dick | WE6H | K3OA |
| David | AA6DC | K3LP |
| Yuki | KE3KL | K3ZB |
| Mel | KN4ZT | K7CMZ |

| | | |
|--------|--------|------|
| Bernie | WD4O | W4SW |
| Bob | WA4QYP | W4YP |
| Jeff | W4PBC | N4JT |

NEXT MEETINGS: For once, we are well ahead of the game and have meeting venues and dates for the April and June NCDXA meetings. So, mark your calendars with the following: April Meeting, April 19th, QTH of Jeff, WV3B, Silver Spring, MD. June Meeting, June 21st, QTH of Frank, W3LPL, Glenwood, MD. The June meeting at W3LPL's will be a joint meeting with PVRC and FRC. A good chance to see Frank's stupendous antenna farm. The August meeting will be at W3YOZ's, on the Bay, but the date is not yet set. Mark your calendars NOW.

HAPPENINGS: Darryl, NR3Y, has left the area and is now in Half Moon Bay, CA. He says: "Currently, we are renting a place 400 yards from the ocean, and situated in the middle of a golf course..... and we can go to sleep with the sound of the surf - bliss!On the radio front, it isn't even worth unpacking 2 meters, as most the activity is the other side of the 'hill' in the Santa Clara valley - this place is a RF Black Hole... I am intending to go to Dayton this year so maybe I'll bump into some of the NCDXA folks while I'm there..." Darrel does plan to be an NCDXA Member at Large.



Prince George's Wireless Association

Meetings: First working Tuesday of each month, 7:30 PM; American Red Cross bldg., 6206 Belcrest Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Club Station: K3CEZ

Mailing: 4109 Kennedy St., Hyattsville, MD 20781

Information: Frank Holton - WA3ZMW (301) 927-1245

PGWA held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 4th at it's radio station, K3CEZ

located in the Red Cross Building in Hyattsville.

As in previous meetings, members have been meeting for dinner prior to the meetings. This time we assembled at Shoney's in Prince George's Plaza near Hyattsville, MD.

After the regular business meeting we usually run a video tape which we feel interests club members. This time we viewed an ARRL tape explaining "Packet Radio".

PGWA's radio station is shaping up rather nicely, We now can boast of having an HF station, along with two 2 meter consoles, a packet station and a full computer set up with a color printer.

Our Club membership, as of now is rather small but we are hoping to attract some new members. Know anyone interested? If so, please call WA3ZMW, Club President at (301) 927-1245,

73s from Ken Easton, N3HLY



Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: First and Third Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. SVARC Club House 2921 Grace Street, Winchester, Virginia.

Repeater: 146.22 In/ 146.82 Out.

Net: Shenandoah Valley Emergency Net (SVEN) 7:15 daily on 146.22/146.82 Repeater.

Mailing: P.O. Box 139 Winchester, 22604.

President: Fred Wetzel (W4KRT).

Info: Irvin Barb, W4DHU, 955-1745.

Internet home page: <http://www.w3ic.com/inet/svarc>.

The Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club held its annual steamed shrimp feed at the club house on Friday Feb. 21st. Jane KD4IET organized her helpers Janie KA4HOP, Fred W4KRT, Irv W4DHU and many others to help set up tables and

chairs and serve the food and clean up.

Everybody , except me (I am allergic to shrimp), had a big pile of shrimp on their plate and it didn't take them long to have nothing left but empty shells. The turkey and salads and other food was all I needed. Thanks Jane, for a job well done.

Tuesday nights at the club house is becoming popular as we are learning to build antennas, power supplies and other projects.

73, Wayne / KE4PMS

Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 2nd Friday of each month at 1930 ET at the PG County Police, Clinton Station, 6707 Groveton Drive, Clinton, Maryland.

Nets: Tuesday at 2000 on 147.15+ Repeater; Wednesday at 2000 on 1.865 (+/-QRM); Thursday at 2000 on 28.447 USB.

Repeater: WA3YUV/R 147.15+, Brandywine, Md. Autopatch to 911.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 273, Cheltenham, Md, 20623

Information: Vic (WA3YUV) & Linda (KA3VNI), (301) 888-1388.

Internet: <http://www.iscanit.com/smarc>

The members of SMARC were certainly saddened by the news of the passing of Ethel Smith, K4LMB. Ethel was one of the nicest people you would want to meet, so full of energy and pleasant to everyone. If you wanted to sum up Ethel in one word, it would be "dedicated" She exemplified everything that was good with Amateur Radio and will be missed by all. 73 Ethel.

Luckily things continue to be relatively quiet around southern Maryland. Planning is beginning for Field Day in the near future. Time to start

thinking about getting your rigs ready for this fun event.

The Internet continues to be big news these days. It has become a valuable communication vehicle for news of importance to all of us. Even Newsline is available from a listserv. A very important notice came out on Newsline in late February when they informed us of the activities of the Little LEO satellite industry. Seems they are making major attempts to secure our frequencies in the 2M, 220, and 440 bands. The interesting thing about this notice was that the FCC Informal Working Group 2A was accepting comments for the record by March 4th that were sent by e-mail. This is a great opportunity for each of us to have our voices heard.

Speaking of the Internet, as you can notice from our banner above, SMARC has a site which we invite all to visit. This is a great opportunity to meet the various members of SMARC. No, I'm not there yet but will look into it.

While you are on the Net, check out the site at <http://www.gate.net/~donstone/antenna.html>. This site is dedicated to restrictive antenna covenants and provides good information on hidden antennas as well as activities going on around the country trying to fight this unfair practices in practice nearly everywhere.

And that is the big news from southern Maryland. Don't forget to join us for the monthly eyeball meeting at the Police Station. Don't forget that taxes are due soon, and we will see you again next month.

73, Greg - WA3FSC



Reminder - all submissions for



are due no later than
the 1st of the month prior to the
month of publication!!



St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Meetings: Fourth Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM, at the Lexington Park library.

Repeater: K3HKA (146.64 MHz)

Packet: K3HKA.#SOMD.MD.USA.NOAM (145.75/145.01/223.58/440.975 MHz)

Lunch Bunch: Every Friday, listen on the 146.64 MHz repeater between 10-11:30 AM to find out where to meet.

Nets: - "St. Mary's ARES", every Monday at 8:00 PM on 146.64 MHz - "Bottom County", every Wednesday at 8:00 PM on 146.64 MHz.

Address: SMCARA, P.O. Box 743, California, Maryland 20619.

Newsletters: Complimentary copies are available at local Radio Shack stores.

The Saint Mary's County Amateur Radio Association participated in two public service events (PSEs) in March.

The second annual 5K Hospice Run in Leonardtown, Maryland was supported by members of the Saint Mary's County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Additionally, an NTS message station was set up at Maryland Day in Saint Maries City, Maryland.

These are the first of a series of PSEs we support throughout the year.

SMCARA intends to participate in a joint Field Day with the Southern Patuxent Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) this year. The event will be held at Dorsey Park in Hollywood, Maryland. There will be more info to follow at a later date regarding field day.

I hope to see everyone at the convention in Timonium.

73 CU Soon, de KE3OX/Mark



Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 8:00 P.M. - Third Monday of the month except July and August at Sterling Community Center Annex, Church Rd. (Rt. 625) near Route 28, Sterling, VA.

Mailing: Call Box 599, Sterling, VA 20167.

Information: Bill Lorentz, KS4II, 703-444-6341 or via email KS4II@AOL.com.

The February Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club meeting was attended by twelve members. Red Free, N3TG, outlined the procedures for the use of the new club call, K4NVA. We look forward to using the call during the Virginia QSO party and for Field Day this year.

Howard Dotson, KF4BCU, John Foote, KR4GL, Ray Mullins, KD4RSL, and Bill Lorentz, KS4II, formed a committee to investigate how the club can become more active in public service and emergency preparedness. More will come from this effort in the following months. The Novice / Technician training class led by Forrest Snyder, N4UTY, has concluded with an examination session sponsored by the Dulles Amateur Radio Group. Thanks to Forrest for giving his time to conduct the class and to all the class participants welcome to Ham Radio!

73, Bill, KS4II

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The Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council, Inc.

Meetings: Coordinating Committee (CC) normally meets the last Monday of each month, 19:30, in the OEP conference room of the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center off Central Avenue. Talk-in on 147.18.

Address: P.O. Box 1022, Savage, Md. 20763-1022 for all correspondence.

Web Page: <HTTP://WWW.T-MARC.ORG>.

Information: President - Owen Wormser K6LEW (703)684-7682 CC Chairman - Bill Conaway W8HNT, Pager (703)741-4251. Ombudsman - Jim Erickson K3LFO (410)549-1041, K3LFO@APEXGRP.COM.

This month I'll discuss the "Shared, Non-Protected" (SNP) frequency pairs which have been established on the 144, 222 and 440 MHz bands (formerly known as the "Repeater Builder's Channels").

These repeater frequencies are intended primarily for the operation of temporary, portable or emergency repeaters, secondarily for repeater experiments, and finally for permanent repeater operations, on a shared basis.

Several groups have built "portable" repeaters which they use for short-term temporary operations such as at public events, on the scene of an emergency situation, or at hamfests.

Other groups have established "permanent" operations on one of the SNP pairs, perhaps while waiting for a regular repeater pair to become available.

These frequencies are highly recommended for experimental "remote-base" operation, and for the operation of dual-band mobile rigs which have built-in repeat capability.

PLEASE don't just plop down on what appears to be a "vacant" frequency for your cross-band operations!! Many problems have been created by operators unknowingly setting up shop on some other repeater's input, or on a link frequency. Use the SNP's!

In all cases, all sponsors and users must realize that since these are shared frequencies, some form of coded access is probably needed in order to keep interference and nuisance problems to a minimum.

CTCSS access is a simple way of keeping order. For operations which are more-or-less permanent, T-MARC has available a limited form of frequency coordination which is available to those sponsors. Check out the procedures on our Web Page.

The frequency pairs which have been established for SNP operation are: 144.57-in/145.17-out; 222.20-in/223.80-out; 442.875-in/447.875-out; and 447.900-in/442.900-out.

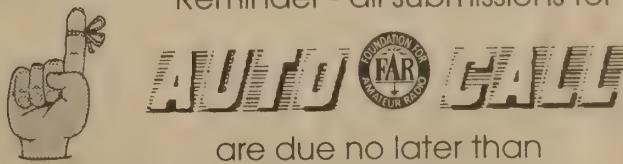
As of this writing, we are aware of 2 stations operating on the 2 M. pair, but not certain of anything on the other bands.

Recent coordinations include a UHF link for a remote receiver on one of the Delaware 2 M. repeaters. We note the new club callsign, KV3B, on the Montgomery ARC's 146.955 Rockville machine. And we're still looking for E-mail addresses for any repeater sponsors who have them.

The new, up-dated ARRL Repeater Directory should be available soon. Look for it!

73, Gary, W3DTN, T-MARC PIO

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month of publication!!



Vienna Wireless Society

Meeting: 7:30pm second and fourth Fridays of the month at the Vienna Community Center.

Nets: Pow-Wow nightly at 9 pm. on 28.444 MHz Slow speed code, nightly 8:30 pm on 28.390 MHz. Vienna Emergency Net, Wednesday 7:30 pm 146.085/146.685

Repeater: K4HTA 146.085 in/146.685 out

Information: Paul, AB4CY, (703) 560-2779

Mailing: P.O. Box 418 Vienna, VA. 22183

Winterfest! For the second year in a row, we had very nice weather (for February, anyway) for Winterfest. The Vienna Community Center was packed with vendors and the parking lot overflowed with tailgaters. If you missed the fun

this year, put a mark on your calendar so as not to miss next year's Winterfest.

Our Grand Prize winner (two meter mobile rig) this year was Steve Bostic of Waldorf, MD. Other Prize winners were:

Greg Mickle, KB4CFP, Maury Shumaker, WOHYB, Joel Harding, KE3YK, Mike Kelly, AB4YY, Jim Rudd, KE4WLG, Norm Heck, W3NN, and Gary Rinker, KD4SRX.

The VWS meets every 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at the Vienna Community Center, starting at 7:30 p.m. The April programs center on Cellular Phone technology, with the April 11 meeting on analog cell phones, and the April 25 meeting on digital cell phones.

We have an excellent line-up of programs for future months, thanks to the efforts of Mike AE4R, Program Chairman.

Kerry Kingham WA4BQM

Young Area Ham Comes to the Rescue

By Colin Wiseman, N3UBI

Often times you hear the cliche' we have lost our younger generation. Well to those who have this misconception, I offer a brief story as evidence to the contrary.

Picture this if you will, it's early in the morning and you are supposed to be in bed as instructed by your parents. Suddenly you hear an unusual noise which prompts you to cautiously look out the window. As you do, you witness a terrible crime taking place. What do you do?

Well let me tell you the reaction of Stephen J. (Brie) Faulkner, N3YHA. This 12 year old amateur radio operator jumped not back into his bed, but to his main source of communications with the outside world -- his trusty 2 meter HT radio.

Using the (DCCARS 145.511 repeater), Brie requested repeater access, and with great professionalism contacted the 911 Police dispatcher. He directed the police to the scene while giving pertinent information to help stop the offense and rid his community of the bad element.

The members of DCCARS and concerned citizens of our community have joined me in saying Kudos N3YHA!! Not only did you do the right thing, you performed admirably.

You are an asset to amateur radio and your community. With you in our eyes the future looks bright. No lost generation here. Keep up the great tradition of being the best Ham and young man you can. We are proud of you and delightfully monitoring.

TO THE FRIENDS OF ETHEL SMITH, K4LMB

As Executive Editor of Auto-Call for the past 10 years, I got to know Ethel quite well.

One of the most notable of her many strengths was her intense fondness and loyalty to the many national organizations to which she belonged. At one time or another, she was on the governing board of almost all of them. Locally, she was a long time friend of clubs like the Washington Mobile Radio Club.

One of the organizations she helped structure, and of which she was extremely fond, was the FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO. She was Corresponding Secretary for many years. She also edited *AUTO-CALL* for nearly 20 years. That's amazing dedication. Since Ethel did not want any fuss at her death, the Foundation wants to offer her many *AUTO-CALL* friends an opportunity to remember her in a way that would please her. At the same time, it would introduce more Washington area hams to the magazine she loved.

For the next 90 days, we invite our readers to give a gift subscription to a friend in remembrance of ETHEL SMITH. In the *AUTO-CALL* issue following the 90 day window, we will publish the names and calls of all those who gave a gift subscription, using the form ON THIS PAGE, to a non-subscriber. Thank you for remembering one of the best friends the "Amateur Radio Service" has ever had.

Gratefully, Tony Young, WA3YLO



Ethel Smith (K4LMB) Memorial Gift Subscription

Here is my ETHEL SMITH gift subscription and my \$8.00 check to FAR.

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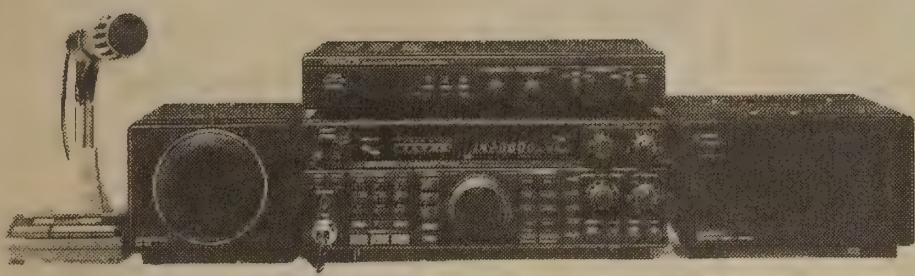
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Your full name and address must be provided with each ad but need not be published. No ads will be accepted over

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ESTATE SALE: ICOM IC-735 Transceiver with matching power supply and manual, \$600. Heil BM-10 Boomset, \$40. Ken Rasmussen, W3ZWY, (703) 780-6820, rasmjk@AOL.COM. [05/97]

FOR SALE: QST '44 through '95 complete in mint condition plus 51 pre '44 issues in good condition. Total 55+ years for \$600.00. Pickup or pay shipping. W3EE, Towson, MD (410) 828-7884. [04/97]

FOR SALE: YAESU FT757GXII HF all band/all mode transceiver. 100 Watt output and general coverage reception from 0.15 to 30 MHZ. Included is a YAESU Dynamic Mic model MD-1. This equipment looks like new, used very little and in perfect condition. \$650. [04/97]

FOR SALE: Bird Wattmeter, Model 43 with 3 slugs; 25 W and 100 W for 100-250 MHZ and 500 W for 2-30 MHZ. Very nice condition with N connectors and S0239 adapters. \$275. Bernie, W3CAO (301) 271-2714 anytime. Thurmont, MD.

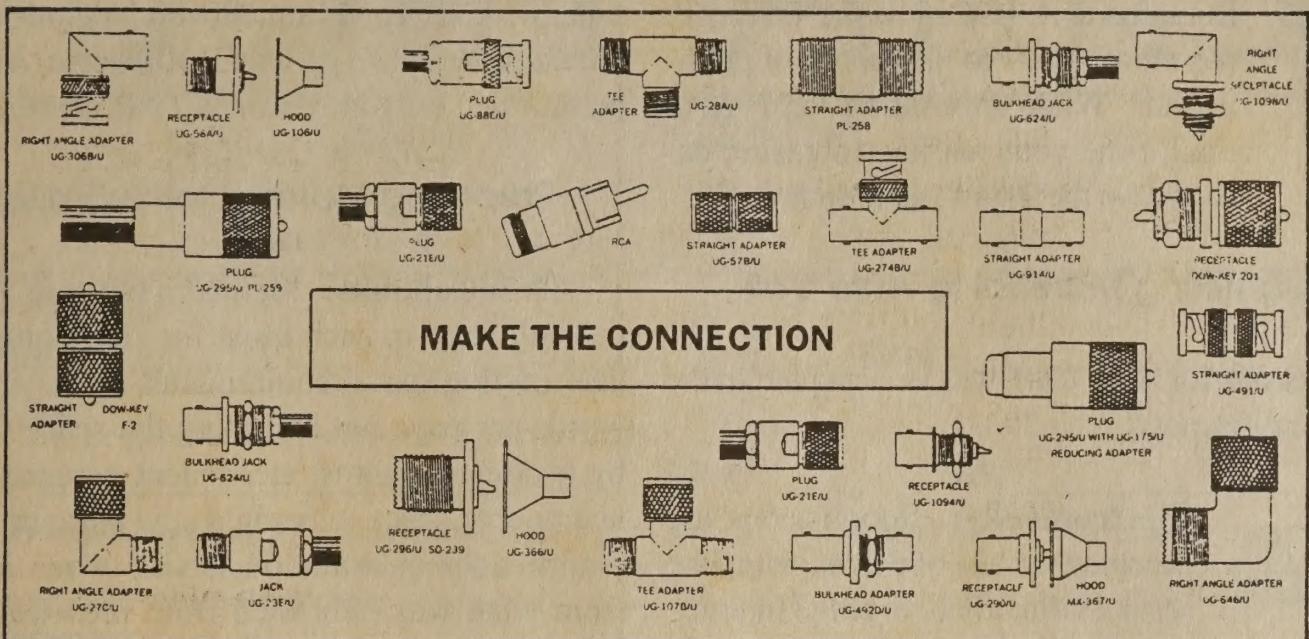
FOR SALE: Home in Greenbelt, MD. + ham tower. 60 ft. Rohn SSV, self supporting tower installed to commercial specifications. Mosley 67B six-band beam installed on top and a Hy-Gain Tailtwister rotor. 4 br 2 bath brick home in immaculate condition. No extra charge for ham tower. Call Phyllis Newman (Re/Max Professionals) 1-800-435-9001. Priced in the mid 100's. [04/97]

FOR SALE: Optoelectronics UTC3000 counter timer 10 Hz to 2.4 GHz TCXO \$200.00. Pete W3ZE (703) 938-2820. [04/97]

FOR SALE: Ham Radio magazines complete years for 1982, 83, 85, 86, 87, and 88. No July 1984. \$15.00. Ringo Ranger 2M antenna, \$20.00. Mirage B108 80 watt 2 meter power amplifier, \$75.00. Bernie Cohen, W3CAO at (301) 271-2714 in Thurmont, MD. [04/97]

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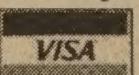
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Submissions for *Auto Call* will be accepted in the following formats:



Electronically: Submissions are accepted via any of the major on line services directly or over the Internet. Use the format exactly as follows:

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BitNet - johnqueen%aol.com@cunyvm

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Connect - johnqueen@aol.com

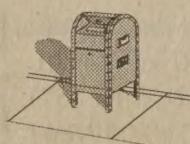
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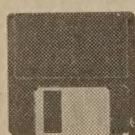
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Prodigy - johnqueen@aol.com



Regular Mail: Mail typewritten or computer generated hard copy to: John Queen, Editor, Auto Call Magazine, 755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736. Ensure that your printed material is dark enough for scanning.



Computer Disk: Submissions are accepted on 3.5" or 5.25" computer disk, in either Macintosh or MS-DOS format, using Word, WordPerfect, or standard ASCII text files. Write your name, telephone number, and club name on the disk. Submit graphic files (club logos, etc) in an EPS or TIFF format. Please verify the readability of your com-

puter files before sending. If you want your computer disk returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with .32 postage. Otherwise, disks will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

Preparing Material for Submission

Club Columns: Member clubs are allocated one full page in each issue for club columns. In determining space requirements, figure about 700 words per page not including the space taken up by headings, photos, etc. Indent paragraphs .25" and double space to begin a new paragraph. Send club header information ONLY when different from what was published from previous month. The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted material for space, content and/or applicability.

Hamfests/Events: Member clubs are allocated one full page per year to promote one club sponsored hamfest, convention, or special event. Submit clean black & white camera ready copy only by mail. Master copy should be in black ink on white paper and should be in proper page ratio, (Copy space is 7" wide by 9" high). Copy can be reduced or enlarged as necessary. Electronic submissions of Hamfest ads will not be accepted.

Photographs: The editor will select the best photograph submitted for the cover each month. Photographs should depict club members, club stations, or amateur radio related events that are current and noteworthy. Clubs may also submit photographs for inclusion with their club column. Photographs will be used in columns when space permits. Either B&W or color photos can be used. For each photograph submitted, write your name, phone number, and club name, along with a description of the photograph on a piece of paper, and tape it on the back of the photograph. Do not write on the back of your photo. If you want your photos returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, photos will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.



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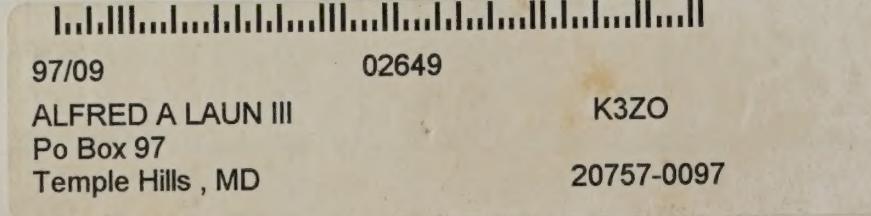
Area Club Meetings - April 1997

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | 1 Antietam PGWA | 2 BARC Montgomery | 3 Anne Arundel | 4 Mobileers Shenandoah | 5 Green Mtn. |
| 6 | 7 DOSARC | 8 Leisure Fauquier Frederick Woodbridge | 9 FAR - MD HEMARC Exp Post | 10 MADRAS Mid-Atlantic Mt. Vernon | 11 VOA Vienna So. Maryland Alexandria | 12 North Point |
| 13 | 14 Carroll Co. | 15 Antietam Arlington | 16 BARC Montgomery Goddard | 17 Anne Arundel | 18 Shenandoah | 19 Capital City QCWA 91 |
| 20 | 21 OVHA Sterling Park | 22 Columbia | 23 Laurel Exp Post Moose | 24 MADRAS St. Mary's | 25 Central MD Vienna | 26 |
| 27 Adventist | 28 Green Mtn. T-MARC | 29 | 30 Carroll Co. | | | |



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